PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

INDEX TO VOL. XLVIII.

JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1916.

Published By Authority of the Council.

CALCUTTA:

BENGAL SECRETARIAT PRESS.

1917.

[*Price—Indian, 11 annas ; English, 1 s.*]

INDEX TO THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1916.

A

PAGE.

ABOLITION—

Of Survey Classes in Dacca Engineering School. See *Questions.*

A. B. RAILWAY, ACCOMMODATION ON—

See *Questions.*

ABUL KASEM, HON'BLE MAULVI—

Amended Resolution regarding rural water-supply 488

Asked questions regarding—

Closing of level-crossing gate at Conarpara in Burdwan ... 458

Non-closing of public offices at Suri during Id-ul-fitr ... 457

Upper Subordinate posts, Muhammadans in—of Public Works Department 457

Moved Resolutions regarding—

Closing of offices and institutions on Id-ul-fitr 482

Embankment on southern bank of Ajai 480

Establishment of a High School at Burdwan 484

Speech on Resolutions regarding—

Mechanical and Electrical Departments and Vernacular Classes for Dacca Engineering School 132

Rural water-supply 488

Withdrew amendment on Resolution regarding rural water-supply ... 509

Withdrew Resolution regarding closing of offices and institutions on Id-ul-fitr 484

Withdrew Resolution regarding embankment on southern bank of Ajai 482

ACCIDENT—

At Krishnagar City. See *Questions.*

ADMISSION—

And transfer of students in Eastern and Western Bengal. See *Questions.*

Into Presidency College. See *Questions.*

ADULTERATION—

Of food. See *Questions.*

AFFILIATION—

Of High English Schools in mufassal. See *Questions.*

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE—

See *Oath or—.*

PAGE.

AGRICULTURAL—

And Dairy Farms. See *Questions.*
Research. See *Questions.*

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT—

See *Demonstrators in—* : also *Questions.*

AJAI—

See *Embankments on—* : also *Questions.*

AKHAURA—

See *Laksham and—.*

ALI, HON'BLE MR. ALTAF—

Asked questions regarding—

Death of Head Constable Paresh Chandra Bose 555
Malaria in Tangail 555
Settlement in Rajshahi Division 555

ALLEGED INSANITARY CONDITION OF—

Midnapore. See *Questions.*

AMINU'R RAHAMAN, HON'BLE MR.—

Speech on resolution regarding trial by jury 604

ANTI-MALARIAL—

Operations. See *Pal Bahadur, Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan.*
Scheme. See *Dr. Bentley's anti-malarial scheme* : also *Questions.*

ARABIC AND PERSIAN—

In High English Schools. See *Questions.*

ARIFF, HON'BLE GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM—

Budget 305

ARRESTS—

Under Rule 12A of Defence of India Rules. See *Questions.*

AUGMENTATION GRANT TO DISTRICT BOARDS—See *Questions.*

AZIMGANJ AND MURSHIDABAD MUNICIPALITIES—See *Water-Works Scheme for Azimganj and Murshidabad Municipalities.*

B

BACKWARD CLASSES. See *Namasudra and other Students of—.*

BANERJEE, HON'BLE BABU RAMTARAN—

Budget 316
Speech on the resolutions regarding—
Amendment of Court of Wards Act, 1879 257
Proposal to frame a scheme for execution of Civil Court Commissions 65
Supported Resolution regarding—
Munsifs, pay of— 166

PAGE.

BANERJI, HON'BLE BABU SURENDRA NATH—

Asked question regarding—

Uneasiness among the people of Calcutta owing to the issue of a Notification under the Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules, 1915, declaring certain areas to be defended harbours 22

Budget 278, 301, 330, 331

Speech on Resolutions regarding—

Additional seats to educated community in Bengal Legislative Council 353, 354

Economic condition of middle class people 360, 361

Election of members in selected District Boards in Bengal ... 60

BANKS—

Loans from Co-operative Credit—. See *Questions.*

BANKURA—See *Famine in Bankura.*

BARISAL—See *Calcutta to Barisal Railway.*

BASU BAHADUR, HON'BLE RAI NALINAKSHA—

Budget 303

Speech on Resolution regarding—

Election of members in selected District Boards in Bengal ... 58

BEATSON BELL, HON'BLE MR.—

Acceptance of Resolution regarding—

Provision for Kanungos discharged owing to stoppage of survey and settlement operations 440

Bengal Smoke-nuisances (Amendment) Bill 40, 41, 42, 43

Budget 340

Introduced certain heads of amended draft Financial Statement ... 43

Presented amended draft Financial Statement 43

Presented Budget, 1916-17 177

Presented Report of Select Committee on Bengal Smoke Nuisances (Amendment) Bill 5

Revised Financial Statement 78

Speech on Resolutions regarding—

Amendment of Court of Wards Act, 1879 ... 257, 258

Closing of offices and institutions on Id-ul-Fitr 483

Damage by floods in Burdwan 616

Economic condition of middle class people ... 359, 361

Embankment on Ajai 481

Metalling of certain roads under Duars Improvement Scheme 8

Reservoir for Damodar river 158

BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818—

See *Defence of India Rules and Bengal Regulation III of 1818.*

See also *Questions.*

BENGAL SECRETARIAT—

Appointments in—. See *Questions.*

Vacancies in—. See *Questions.*

BENGAL SMOKE—

Nuisances (Amendment) Bill, 1915.

Report of Select Committee presented 5

See *Bill.*

PAGE.

BENGAL TENANCY ACT—

Recovery of rents under—. See *Questions.*

BERHAMPORE—

See *Insanitary condition of—.*

BHAGIRATHI RIVER—

Condition of—. See *Questions.*

BHOLA—

See *Questions.*

BILL—

Bengal Smoke-nuisances (Amendment)—, 1915.

Passed in Council 43

Report of Select Committee considered and Bill passed ... 40

Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment)—

Introduced 371

Referred to Select Committee 372

Report of Select Committee presented 417

Withdrawn 417

BIRBHUM—

Malaria in—. See *Questions.*

Plague in—. See *Questions.*

See *Muhammadans in District Judge's offices at—.*

BIRLEY, HON'BLE MR.—

Introduced certain heads of amended draft Financial Statement ... 47

Replied to questions regarding—

Destruction of cattle by flood 17

Fibre Experts' jute seeds demonstrations 273

Improvement of cattle and provision of pasture lands ... 24

Industrial Co-operative Societies and Loans, Agricultural and Dairy Farms and Fruit Culture 23

Loans from Co-operative Credit Banks 17

Promotion of Sub-Registrars in Grade IV of Registration Department 33

Prospects of Clerks in Registration offices 33

Prospects of Sub-Registrars in Grades IV and V of the Registration Department 33

Record-of-rights operations in Eastern Bengal 261

Relations between zamindars and tenants 24

Service of summonses in rent-suits 3

Settlement operations in Eastern Bengal 262

Ufra paddy disease 271

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES—See *Questions.*

BOGRA—See *Magistrate and Collector of Bogra.*

BONGONG-SATKHIRA RAILWAY—See *Questions.*

BRAHMANBARIA—See *Waiting rooms at Brahmanbaria station.*

BRAY, HON'BLE MR.—

Appointed member of Select Committee on Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 372

Budget 308

PAGE.

BREACHES IN GUMTI EMBANKMENTS—
See *Questions.*

BUDGET, 1916-17 81
Discussed 274
Presented 177

BURDWAN—
See *Gun licenses in Burdwan.*

BURDWAN COURTS—
See *Judicial work in Burdwan Courts.*

BURDWAN, HON'BLE MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR OF—
Budget 280

C

CALCUTTA—
See *Muhammadan Students in Calcutta.*

CALCUTTA HACKNEY-CARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL—
See *Bill.*

CALCUTTA IMPROVEMENT TRUST—
See *Questions.*

CALCUTTA TO BARISAL RAILWAY—
See *Questions.*

CART-NUISANCE IN CALCUTTA—
See *Questions.*

CATTLE—
Destruction of—
By flood. See *Questions.*
Improvement of—
And provision of pasture lands. See *Questions.*
Poisoning in Bengal. See *Questions.*

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR JUVENILE JAIL—
See *Questions.*

CHAKRAVARTI, HON'BLE MR. BYOMKES—
Asked questions regarding—
Grants for sanitation ... ... — ... 36
Magrahât drainage scheme ... ... — ... 21
Mortality due to malarial causes 22

CHANDRA BAHADUR, HON'BLE RAI HARI MOHAN—
Budget 283
Supported the Resulation regarding—
Economic condition of middle-class people 359

CHAPLIN, HON'BLE MR. A. W. C.—
Speech on Resolution regarding—
Metalling of certain roads under the Duars Improvement Scheme 8

CHAUDHURI, HON'BLE RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY—
Asked questions regarding—
Clearing of jungle, etc. 70
Encouragement of Indian manufactures 25
Improvement of cattle and provision of pasture lands ... 24
Industrial Co-operative Societies and Loans, Agricultural and Dairy Farms and Fruit Culture 23

PAGE.

CHAUDHUI, HON'BLE RAJA MAHENDA RANJAN RAY—*concluded.*

Asked questions regarding—*concluded.*

Infant mortality in the Presidency 28
Kurseong Improvement Fund Committee 74
Labour in Darjeeling and Duars 24
Low percentage of outlay on Public Works in Kurseong ... 25
Mortality in Rajshahi 27
...mber of paper-making factories in the Presidency ... 26
...per-making industry and the starting of factories ... 26
...rchase by Government of indigenous goods 26
Relations between zamindars and tenants 24
Sanitation in Rajshahi 28
Teachers for Primary and Secondary Institutions 25
Trained *dhais* in villages 72
Village sanitation 72

Withdrew Resolution regarding—

Stoppage of all travelling and halting allowances of gazetted Civil Officers and Members of Council 68

CHAUDHURI, HON'BLE BABU KISHORI MOHAN—

Asked questions regarding—

Catchment area of Kurseong water-supply—dual control of—... 573
Communication between Pabna and northern districts of Rajshahi 404
Congestion in Intermediate Class carriages on the E. B. Ry. ... 405
Fares on E. B. Ry. over Hardinge Bridge 405
Landlord's fees under Bengal Tenancy Act 513
Observatory Hill, Darjeeling 456
Passenger traffic between Sara and Ishrudi 457
Railway communication in Pabna 457
Railway communication in Rajshahi 403
Steamer communication in Rajshahi 403
Tax on stray dogs in Kurseong Municipality 573

Speech on Resolutions regarding—

Embankment on Ajai 481
Rural water-supply 497
Trial by Jury 600

CHAUDHURI, HON'BLE MR. ASHRAF ALI KHAN—

Speech on Resolution regarding—

Trial by Jury 599

CLERKS—

And Mohurrirs in Registration offices. See *Fazlul-Haq.*
Prospects of—in Registration offices. See *Questions.*

CIVIL COURTS—

Sale notices of—. See *Questions.*

COLLEGE—

Messes and University Circular. See *Questions.*

COLLECTOR—

Of Bogra. See *Magistrate and Collector of Bogra.*

COMMUNAL—

Representation in Provincial Judicial Service. See *Questions.*

CONARPARA—

See *Closing of level-crossing gate at Conarpara in Burdwan.*

PAGE.

CONDITION—

Of Ajai embankment near Satkonia. See *Questions.*

CONFINEMENT—

Under rule 12A of Defence of India Rules. See *Questions.*

CO-OPERATIVE—

Credit Banks Loans from—. See *Questions.*

COST—

Of Settlement operations in Rajshahi. See *Questions.*

COURT(S)—

Of Wards. See *Questions.*
Of Wards Act, 1879. See *Resolutions.*
See *Burdwan Courts.*

COWLEY, HON'BLE MR.—

Speech on Resolution regarding—
Embankment on Ajai 481

CYCLONE—

And floods. See *Questions.*

D

DACCA—

College. See *Questions.*
Engineering College. See *Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges.*
Engineering Schools. See *Resolutions.*
See *Questions.*
Suspects. See *Questions.*
University. See *Questions.*

DACCA SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING—

Abolition of—
Survey classes in the—. See *Questions.*

DACOITS—

See *Resistance to dacoits by public.*

DACOITY—

In Lalitashar. See *Questions.*

DAMODAR RIVER—

Reservoir for—. See *Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri.*

DAMODAR RIVER—

Sites for reservoirs near—. See *Questions.*

DARJEELING—

Labour in—and Duars. See *Questions.*
See *Government exodus to Darjeeling* : also *Observatory Hill, Darjeeling.*

DATE—

And Sugarcane cultivation. See *Questions.*

PAGE.

DATTA, HON'BLE BABU AKHIL CHANDRA—

Asked questions regarding—

Accommodation on Assam-Bengal Railway 472
Applications for admission into medical institutions ... 414
Breaches in Gumti Embankments 548
Dacoity in Lalitashar, Tippera 542
Difficulty of admission of students to colleges 400
Demand for medical practitioners in Bengal 389
Dismissal of Police officer 543
Floods in Tippera 400, 548
Gumti Embankments 549
Inadequate accommodations and staff in Colleges 400
Internments under Defence of India Act 544, 546
Lack of waiting rooms at Brahmanbaria station 471
Number of intermediate passed students for 1916 and their admission to Colleges 413
Number of matriculates in Bengal for 1916 and their admission to Colleges 413
Number of medical students 388
Number of students receiving education in Colleges ... 400
Number of Upper and Lower Primary Schools 390
Primary education 470
Proportion of registered medical practitioners to the number of villages 389
Relief work in Tippera 401
Unrecognised High Schools in Bengal 470
Waiting-rooms at Laksham and Akhaura stations 471

Moved Resolution regarding—

Trial by Jury 509, 575

Speech on Resolution regarding—

Mechanical and Electrical Departments and Vernacular Survey Classes for Dacca Engineering School ... ...43', 432
Rural water-supply 502
Trial by Jury 607

DEATH—

Of Head Constable. See *Questions.*
Rates. See *Birth and Death rates.*

DEFENCE—

Of India Act. See *Proceedings under Defence of India Act* : also *Internments under Defence of India Act.*
Of India (Consolidation) Rules, 1915. Uneasiness among the people of Calcutta owing to the issue of a Notification under—declaring certain areas to be defended harbours 22
Of India Rules. See *Arrests under Rule 12A. of Defence of India Rules* : also *Questions.*
Of India Rules and Bengal Regulation III of 1818. See *Questions.*

DE, HON'BLE MR. K. C.—

Replied to questions regarding—

Abolition of Survey Classes in Dacca School of Engineering ... 36
Affiliation of High English Schools in mufassal districts ... 18
Arabic and Persian, teaching of—in High English Schools ... 175
Drinking-water in rural areas and other sanitary improvements 270, 271
Electrical Departments of Shibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges 265

PAGE.

DE, HON'BLE MR. K. C.—*concluded.*

Replied to questions regarding—*concluded.*

Expenditure on Muhammadan Education 35
Fire Brigade (Calcutta), extension of scope of— 173
Grants for sanitation in Bengal 36
Infant mortality in the Presidency 28
Jungles, drainage, tanks, wells and insanitary hollows and depressions 70
Kerbelais, Imambarah in Portuguese Church Street ... 31
Kurseong Improvement Fund Committee 74
Low percentage of outlay on Public Works in Kurseong ... 25
Magrahât drainage scheme 21
Malaria in Birbhum 18
Malaria in Murshidabad district 3
Mortality due to malarial causes 22
Mortality in Rajshahi 27
Payment of school-fees in Eastern Bengal 2
Plague in Birbhum 18
Primary examinations 263
Proposed acquisition of certain villages in the 24-Parganas ... 32
Sanitation in Rajshahi 28
Survey School at Lalmai Hill, Tippera 75, 76
Teachers for Primary and Secondary institutions 25
Technical institutions at Dacca 75, 76
Upper and Lower Subordinate sections in Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges 264
Village sanitation and supply of drinking water 72
Water Works Scheme for Azimganj and Murshidabad Municipalities 270
Water Works Scheme for Suri Municipality 19
Zenana education 268

DEMONSTRATORS—

In Agricultural Department. See *Questions.*

DEPARTMENT—

Of Education. See *Questions.*

DEPRESSIONS—

See *Hollows and depressions.*

DEPUTY COLLECTORS—

On foreign service. See *Questions.*

DHAIS, (TRINED)—

See *Chaudhuri*: also *Questions.*

DISMISSAL—

Of Police officer. See *Questions.*

DISTRICT BOARDS—

Election of members in selected—in Bengal. See *Resolutions.*
See *Questions.*

DONALD, HON'BLE MR.—

Replied to questions regarding—

Admission of students into Medical College, Calcutta. ... 388
Advertising of vacancies in Government Offices 34
Alleged insanitary condition of Midnapore 459

PAGE.

DONALD, HON'BLE MR.—*concluded.*

Replied to questions regarding—*concluded.*

Alleged wrongful arrest by an Excise Sub-Inspector ... 386
Applications for admission into medical institutions ... 414
Appointments in Bengal Secretariat 31
Birth and death-rates in Presidency Division 377
Calcutta Improvement Trust 514
Catchment area of Kurseong water-supply, dual control of— ... 573
Complaints against Lady Dufferin Hospital authorities ... 521
Consumption, etc, of sugar in Bengal 383
Cutting of Zakariah Street 516
Demand for medical practitioners in Bengal 390
Dr. Bentley's anti-malarial scheme 402, 459
Duly qualified medical practitioners 412
Economic position in Bengal 382
Encouragement of Indian Manufacturers 26
Expenditure on repairs of tanks and Hospitals by District Board 541
Government exodus to Darjeeling 518
Halishahar Municipality, sanitation and partition of— ... 461
High mortality in Manikganj 377
Hostel for medical students in Calcutta 465
Importation of tea into India 553
Industries in Bengal 382
Infantile mortality in Calcutta and suburbs 451
Inquiries into affairs of Provident Societies 568
Labour in Darjeeling and Duars 24
Local Administrations and Industries 382
Malaria in Tangail 556
Muhammadan population in Rajshahi Division 570
Muhammadan representation in Municipalities 562
Municipal Administration of Howrah 445
Municipal disenfranchisement of graduates and under-graduates 445
Municipalities in Bengal 475
Nomination of members of District and Local Boards ... 406
Non-closing of public offices at Suri during the Id-ul-Fitr festival 457
Number of medical students 388
Number of paper-making factories in the Presidency ... 26
Observatory Hill, Darjeeling 457
Organization of Union Committees 461
Paper-making industry and the starting of factories ... 27
Prevention of adulteration of food 466
Proportion of registered medical practitioners to number of villages 389
Provident Societies 568
Public Works Cess and District Boards 410
Public Works Cess, utilization of— 461
Purchase by Government of indigenous goods 26
Registered medical practitioners at principal local places ... 413
Registered medical practitioners, list of— 411
Sanitary improvement in the suburbs of Calcutta ... 452
Subsidizing of industries by Government 382
Tax on stray dogs in Kurseong Municipality 573
Union Committees 416, 536
Union residents in Union Committees, representation of— ... 539
Vacancies in the Bengal Secretariat Establishment ... 34

PAGE.

DR. BENTLEY'S—

Anti-malarial scheme. See *Questions.*

DRAFT—

Financial Statement 79

DRAINAGE—

See *Questions.*
Jessore—Division. See *Jessore.*
Magrahât—scheme. See *Questions.*

DRINKING-WATER—

In rural areas. See *Questions.*

DUARS—

Labour in Darjeeling and—. See *Questions.*

DUARS IMPROVEMENT SCHEME—

Metalling of certain roads under—. See *Resolutions.*

DUFFERIN HOSPITAL—

Lady—authorities. See *Questions.*

DUTT, HON'BLE MR. K. B.—

Asked questions regarding –
Alleged insanitary condition of Midnapore 459
Dr. Bentley's anti-malarial scheme 459
Executive and Judicial functions, separation of— 513
Expenditure on public buildings 460
Famine in Bankura 458
Lodgings for Munsifs in Eastern Bengal 460

Speech on Resolutions regarding—
Rural water-supply 497
Trial by Jury 599

E

EASTERN AND WESTERN BENGAL—

Admission and transfer of students in—. See *Questions.*

EASTERN BENGAL—

See *Questions.*

EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY—

Lack of waiting-rooms and sheds on—. See *Questions.*

ECONOMIC—

Condition of middle class people. See *Resolutions.*
Position in Bengal. See *Questions.*

EDEN, HON'BLE MR. –

Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 418

EDUCATED COMMUNITY—

See *Resolutions.*

EDUCATION—

Expenditure on Muhammadan—See *Questions.*
Primary—in Bengal. See *Questions.*
Of minors. See *Questions.*

PAGE.

EDUCATIONAL—

Service. See *Subordinate Educational Service.*

EDWARDS, HON'BLE COLONEL W. R.—

Introduced certain heads of Amended Draft Financial Statement ... 46

ELECTION—

To Bengal Legislative Council by special Muhammadan electorate. See *Questions.*

ELECTRICAL—

Power-house. See *Questions.*

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENTS—

Of Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges. See *Questions.*

EMBANKMENTS—

On Ajai. See *Questions also Resolutions.*

ENGINEERING COLLEGE—

Sibpur. See *Questions.*
See *Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges.*

EXCISE—

Sub-Inspector. See *Questions.*

EXECUTIVE—

And Judicial Functions. See *Questions.*

EXPENDITURE—

On repairs of tanks and Hospitals. See *Questions.*

EXPERTS—

See *Questions.*

F

FACTORIES, NUMBER OF PAPER-MAKING—

In the Presidency. See *Questions.*

FAMINE—

In Bankura. See *Questions.*

FARIDPUR—

And river Padma. See *Questions.*

FAZL-UL HAQ, HON'BLE MAULVI A. K.—

Asked questions regarding—

Abolition of Survey Classes in the Dacca School of Engineering 36
Advertising of vacancies in Government offices 34
Arabic and Persian, teaching of—in High English Schools ... 175
Expenditure on Muhammadan Education 35
Free-studentships to Muhammadan students in High Schools ... 415
High English Schools at Bhola, Jamalpur, Jhalakati and Pirojpur 414
Hostel accommodation of Muhammadan students 554
House-searches in Dacca 78
Kerbalai Imambarah in Portuguese Church Street ... 31

PAGE.

FAZL-UL HAQ, HON'BLE MAULVI A. K.—*concluded.*

Asked questions regarding—*concluded.*

Lack of hostel accommodation 469
Muhammadan students in Calcutta 469
Pension-holders of Nizamat family of Murshidabad ... 32
Presidency College—Admission of students in— 469
Promotion of Sub-Registrars in Grade IV of Registration Department 33
Proposed acquisition of certain villages in 24-Parganas ... 31
Prospects of Clerks in Registration offices 33
Prospects of Sub-Registrars in Grades IV and V of Registration Department 33
Survey School at Lalmai Hill, Tipperah 75, 76
Technical institutions at Dacca 75, 76
Travelling charges of touring officers of office of Director of Agriculture 414
travelling charges of touring officers of Department of Education 415
two Dacca suspects 74
Vacancies in Bengal Secretariat Establishment 33

Budget 312, 334

moved resolutions on Revised Financial Statement regarding—

Clerks and Mohurrirs in Registration offices, pay of— ... 168
Munsifs, pay of— 166, 167

moved Resolutions regarding—

admission of Muhammadan students into Medical Institutions of Calcutta 435
hostel accommodation for Muhammadan students in Calcutta...435, 438
Proposal to frame a scheme for execution of Civil Court Commissioners ... ... 64, 67 and 68
provision for Kanungos discharged for stoppage of survey and settlement operations 440
re-opening of mechanical and clerical departments and vernacular survey classes to Dacca Engineering School ... 421

speech on resolutions regarding—

closing of offices and institutions on Id-ul-Fitr 483
Trial by jury 594, 595

supported resolution regarding—

offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis, inspection and supervision of 172

Withdrew resolution regarding—

Election of additional Member to Bengal Legislative Council by non-official Commissioners of Corporation 64

FEMALE PASSENGERS—

in Eastern Bengal Railway. See *Questions.*

FIBRE EXPERTS'—

jute seeds demonstrations. See *Questions.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—

Introduction of certain heads of the amended draft—. ... 43, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 55

Presentation of the Amended Draft—. 43

Revised—

presented 78
Resolutions on— 157

See also *Draft Financial Statement.*

PAGE.

FINES—

by Settlement Officers. See *Questions.*

FIRE BRIGADE—

See *Questions.*

FISHERIES—

See *Questions.*

FLOODS—

Destruction of cattle by—. See *Questions.*
Cylone and floods. See *Questions.*
in Tippera district. See *Questions.*
Periodical floods in Burdwan Division. See *Questions.*

FRUIT CULTURE—

See *Questions.*

FOREIGN SERVICE—

Deputy Collectors on foreign service. See *Questions.*

FREE-STUDENTSHIPS—

See *Questions.*

G

GHOSE BAHADUR, HON'BLE RAI DEBENDER CHUNDER—

appointed member of Select Committee on Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 372

asked questions regarding—

Calcutta Improvement Trust 514
cutting of Zakariah Street 516
Jessore Drainage Division 515
Passenger station at Ultadinghi 515

speech on resolution regarding—

Rural water-supply 496

GOVERNMENT EXODUS TO DARJEELING—

See *Questions.*

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS—

at Burdwan. See *Resolutions.*
See also *Questions.*

GOVERNMENT OFFICES—

Advertising of vacancies in—. See *Questions.*

GOVERNMENT SERVICE—

Pay and prospects of teachers in Government service. See *Questions.*

GRADUATES AND UNDER-GRADUATES—

See *Questions.*

GRATUITIES—

Pensions and—to relatives of deceased Government Officers, assassinated. See *Questions.*

PAGE.

GREEN, HON'BLE MR.—

Introduced certain heads of Amended Draft Financial Statement 48

Replied to questions regarding—

accident at Krishnagar City 468
accommodation on A. B. Ry. 472
amount spent on construction of public buildings 460
Pongong-Satkhira Railway 173
breaches in Gumti embankment 548
closing of level crossing gate at Conarpara in Burdwan ... 458
closing of Ranaghat-Krishnagar Light Railway 452
condition of Ajai embankment near Satkonia 559
condition of Bhagirathi river 4
congestion in intermediate class carriages on E. B. R. ... 405
construction of a spill area for Tolly's Nala 403
daily steamer service between Hatiya and Noakhali ... 558
direct communication between Pabna and Northern districts of Rajshahi 404
electrical Power house at Dacca College 266
embankments on Ajai 558
fares on E. B. R. over Hardinge Bridge 405
Faridpur and river Padma 532
floods in Tippara district 548
Gumti embankments 549, 551
inconvenience of female passengers in E. B. Ry. 571
insanitary condition of Berhampore 540
inundation of Kadua *math* 467
Jessore Drainage Division 575
Khulna-Barisal-Faridpur Railway 172
lack of waiting-rooms at Brahmanbaria station 471
lack of waiting-rooms and sheds on E. B. Ry. 556
life-boats in passenger steamers 571
Muhammadans in Upper Subordinate posts in Public Works Department 457
Padma river 19
passenger station at Ultadinghi 515
passenger steamer services 571
passenger traffic between Sara and Ishrudi 457
periodical floods in Burdwan Division 534
plague of water-hyacinth 557
railway commnnications in Pabna 457
railway communications in Rajshahi 403
sites for reservoirs near Damodar river 4
Steamer communication in Rajshahi 404
strengthening of Gumti embankments 20
transfer of head-quarters of Noakhali 556
wating-rooms at Laksham and Akhaura stations 471

GUHA RAY—

Nagendra Kumar—. See *Questions*.

GUMTI—

Stengthening of—embankments. See *Questions*.

GUMTI EMBANKMENT—

Breaches in—. See *Questions*.

GUN LICENSES—

in Burdwan. See *Questions*.

PAGE.

H

HACKNEY-CARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL—

Calcutta—. See *Bill*.

HAIDER CHAUDHURI, HON'BLE NAWAB SAIYID HOSSAIN—KHAN BAHADUR—

Asked questions regarding—

affiliation of High English schools in mufassal districts ... 18
destruction of cattle by flood 17
loans from co-operative credit banks 17

HALISHAHAR—

Municipality. See *Questions*.

HARDINGE BRIDGE—

See *Questions*.

HEAD-CONSTABLE—

Death of—. See *Questions*.

HEAD QUARTERS OF NOAKHALI—

Transfer of—. See *Questions*.

HIGH ENGLISH SCHOOLS—

Arabic and Persian in—. See *Questions*.

HIGH SCHOOLS—

See *Questions*.

HIGH SCHOOLS IN BENGAL—

Unrecognised—. See *Questions*.

HORNELL, HON'BLE MR.—

Budget 318
Introduced certain heads of Amended Draft Financial Statement ... 51

Replied to questions regarding—

admission of students into Sibpur Engineering College ... 338
admissions and transfers of students in Eastern and Western Bengal 522
College Messes and University Circular 466
Dacca University Scheme 385
difficulty of admission of students to colleges 400
education of backward classes in Bengal 384
free-studentship to Muhammadan students in high schools ... 415
Government high schools in mufassal 407
High English schools at Bhola, Jamalpur, Jhalakati and Pirojpur 415
hostel accommodation for Muhammadan students 555
inadequate accommodation and staff in colleges 400
lack of hostel accomodation 469
legislation for establishment of proposed University at Dacca 386
Mianji Training Schools 407
Muhammadan students in Calcutta 469
number of Intermediate passed students for 1916 and their admission into colleges 413
number of Matriculates in Bengal in 1916 and their admission into colleges 413

PAGE.

HORNELL, HON'BLE MR.—*concluded.*

replied to questions regarding—*concluded.*

number of students receiving education in colleges in Bengal 400
number of upper and lower primary schools in Bengal ... 390
pay and prospects of teachers in Government service ... 529
Primary and Middle Courses in schools 536
Primary education in Bengal 471
Presidency College, admission into— 468
private tuition by teachers in Government service 530
revival of Middle School Final Examination 536
strike of students in Sibpur Engineering College 454
Subordinate Educational Service 529
travelling charges of the touring officers of Department of Education 416
unrecognised High Schools in Bengal 470

Speech on the resolutions regarding—

Government High School at Burdwan 611
hostel accommodation in Calcutta for Namasudra and other students of backward classes 164

HOSPITALS—

See *Tanks and Hospitals.*

HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION—

Lack of hostel accommodation. See *Questions.*

HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION FOR MUHAMMADAN STUDENTS IN CALCUTTA—

See *Resolutions.*

HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION OF MUHAMMADAN STUDENTS—

See *Questions.*

HOWRAH—

Municipal Administration of Howrah. See *Questions.*

HUDA, HON'BLE NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL—

See *Shams-ul-Huda.*

HUSAIN, HON'BLE KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARAF—

asked question regarding payment of school fees in Eastern Bengal. ... 2
moved resolutions regarding metalling of certain roads under Duars Improvement Scheme 612

I

ID-UL-FITR—

festival. Non-closing of offices at Suri during Id-ul-Fitr festival. See *Questions.*

See *Resolutions.*

IMPORTATION OF TEA INTO INDIA—

Statistics relating to importation of tea into India. See *Questions.*

IMPROVEMENT TRUST—

Calcutta Improvement Trust. See *Questions.*

PAGE.

INDIAN MANUFACTURES, ENCOURAGEMENT OF—
See *Questions.*

INDIGENOUS GOODS, PURCHASE BY GOVERNMENT OF—
See *Questions.*

INDIGO CULTIVATION—
See *Questions.*

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND LOANS—
See *Questions.*

INDUSTRIES—
See *Questions.*

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN CALCUTTA AND SUBURBS—
See *Questions.*

INFANT MORTALITY IN THE PRESIDENCY—
See *Questions.*

INSANITARY CONDITION OF BERHAMPORE—
See *Questions.*

INSANITARY CONDITION OF MIDNAPORE—
Alleged insanitary condition of Midnapore. See *Questions.*

INTERMEDIATE-PASSED STUDENTS—
See *Questions.*

INTERNED PERSONS—
See *Questions.*

INTERNMENT OF PERSONS IN BENGAL—
See *Questions.*

INTERNMENTS—
See *Questions.*

INTERNMENTS UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT—
See *Questions.*

INTERVIEWS WITH AND TRANSFERENCE OF INTERNED PERSONS—
See *Questions.*

INUNDATION OF KADUA MATH—
See *Questions.*

IRWIN, HON'BLE MR.—
Asked question regarding—
Importation of tea into India 553
Speech on resolution regarding—
Trial by Jury 605

ISLAND—
of Hatiya and Noakhali, Daily Steamer Service between—
See *Questions.*

PAGE.

ISMAIL KHAN, HON'BLE CHAUDHURI MUHAMMAD—

Asked question regarding—

Calcutta to Barisal railway extension 172

Budget 304

Moved resolution regarding—

Offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis, inspection and supervision of— 171

J

JAIL—

Overcrowding in Jails. See *Questions.*

JAMALPUR—

See *Questions.*

JESSORE DRAINAGE DIVISION—

See *Questions.*

JHALAKATI—

See *Questions.*

JUDGESHIPS—

See *Small Cause Court Judgeships.*

JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS—

See *Executive and Judicial functions.*

JUDICIAL AND REVENUE DUTIES IN BURDWAN—

See *Questions.*

JUDICIAL SERVICE—

See *Provincial Judicial Service.*

JUDICIAL WORK IN BURDWAN COURTS—

See *Questions.*

JUMA AND MIDDAY PRAYERS, FACILITIES FOR—

Resolution regarding—

Postponed 617

JUNGLES—

See *Questions.*

JURY—

See *Trial by jury.*

JUTE SEEDS—

See *Fibre Expert's jute seeds demonstrations.*

JUVENILE JAIL—

See *Central Committee for Juvenile Jail.*

PAGE.

K

KADUA MATH—

See *Inundation of Kadua math.*

KANUNGOS—

See *Resolutions.*

KASEM, HON'BLE MAULVI ABUL—

Asks questions regarding—

appointments held by Muhammadans in listed service ... 408
appointments held by Muhammadans in Provincial Service, etc. 409
assistant Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education ... 408
condition of Ajai embankment near Satkonia 558
embankments on Ajai river 558
employment of Kanungos displaced owing to suspension of settlement work 405
Government High Schools in districts 407
gun licenses in Burdwan 561
internments under Defence of India Act. 561
judicial and revenue duties in Burdwan, separation of— ... 559
judicial work in Burdwan Courts 559
"*Juma*" prayers and Muhammadan mukhtars of Burdwan ... 560
Mianji traning schools 407
Muhammadan representation in municipalities 562
Muhammadans in District Judge's offices at Birbhum ... 560
nominations of members to District and Local Boards ... 406
Provincial Judicial Service and Small Cause Court Judgeships 561

Moved resolutions regarding—

damage by floods in certain areas in the district of Burdwan ... 611
establishment of a Government High School at Burdwan ... 610

KAZIS—

See *Marriage Registrars and Kazis.*

KERR, HON'BLE MR.—

Replied to questions regarding—

Agricultural Department, Expert in— 565
Agricultural research, results of— 566
alleged wrongful arrest by a Police Inspector 387
appointments held by Muhammadans in listed service ... 408
appointments held by Muhammadans in Provincial Services, etc. 409
appointments of Muhammadans to listed posts 479
arrests under Rule 12 A of Defence of India Rules ... 473
Assistant Inspector of Schools for Muhammadan Education ... 408
augmentation grant and assignment of Public Works Cess to District Boards 568
cart-nuisance in Calcutta 454
cattle-poisoning in Bengal 536
Central Committee for Juvenile Jail 521
confinement under Defence of India Rules and Bengal Regulation III of 1818 474
confinement under Rule 12 A of Defence of India Rules ... 475
cost of settlement operations in Rajshahi 451
Dacca suspects 74
dacoity in Lalitashar, Tippera 543
death of Head Constable Paresh Chandra Bose 555

PAGE.

KERR, HON'BLE MR.—*continued.*

Replied to questions regarding—*continued.*

death sentences by sessions courts 570
demonstrators in Agricultural Department 566
Deputy Collectors on foreign service 273
Deputy Directorship of Fisheries 566
dismissal of Police officer 544
education of minors under the Court of Wards 448
effect of cyclone and floods in September, 1916 519
election to Bengal Legislative Council by special Muhammadan electorate 533
employment of kanungos displaced owing to suspension of settlement work 406
executive and judicial functions, separation of— 514
expenditure for maintenance of Fisheries Department ... 567
famine in Bankura 458
fines by Settlement Officers 450
floods in Tippera 401
grants to District Boards 569
gun licenses in Burdwan 562
improvement in date and sugarcane cultivation 383
internment of persons in Bengal 478
internments 447, 454
internments under Defence of India Act ... 472, 544, 545, 561
interviews with and transference of interned persons ... 474
judicial and revenue duties in Burdwan, separation of— ... 559
judicial work in Burdwan Courts 559
"*Jumat*" prayers and Muhammadan Mukhtars of Purdwan ... 560
Khatians of Rajshahi, recording of— 451
Landlord's fees under Bengal Tenancy Act 573
lodgings for Munsifs, Eastern Bengal 460
Muhammadans and officiating Munsiffships 563
Muhammadans and Provincial Judicial Service 563
Muhammadans in District Judge's offices at Birbhum ... 560
municipalities in Bengal 475
non-appointment of Muhammadans to posts of Magistrates and Collectors of Bogra 480
overcrowding in jails 520
pensions and gratuities to relatives of deceased Government officers, assassinated 28
pension-holders of the Nizamat family of Murshidabad ... 32
political crimes 273
prisoner in Mymensingh jail, death of— 531
proceedings under Defence of India Act 532
proposed sub-division of Pabna district 21
protection of fish by Department of Fisheries 567
Provincial Judicial Service, appointments to— ... 173, 174
Ditto communal representation of— ... 564
Ditto promotions in— 564
Ditto and Small Cause Court Judgeships 561
recovery of rent under Bengal Tenancy Act 448
regulation of traffic in Calcutta streets 453
relief work in Tippera 401
resistance to dacoits by public 520
reviving of indigo cultivation in Bengal 384
sale notices of Civil Courts 21
sessions cases in mufassal 570

PAGE.

KERR, HON'BLE MR.—*concluded.*

replied to questions regarding—*concluded.*

settlement in Rajshahi Division 555
settlement operations of *patit* lands in Rajshahi district ... 573
ditto in Rajshahi district, conference regarding costs of— 573
ditto in Rajshahi district, cost of— ... 572
ditto in Rajshahi district, recovery of costs of —by instalments 573
special class prisoners 521
statistics of persons dealt with under Rule 3 of Defence of India Rules and Bengal Regulation III of 1818 ... 473
Survey and Settlement Manual, publication of a revised edition of— 572
tramway accidents 466
travelling charges of touring officers of office of Director of Agriculture 414
uneasiness among the people of Calcutta owing to the issue of a Notification under the Defence of India (consolidation) Rules 1915, declaring certain areas to be defended harbours 22
up-keep of public temples 556

KERBELAI IMAMBARAH—

in Portuguese Church Street. See *Questions.*

KHAN BAHADUR, HON'BLE MAULV MUSHARROF HUSSAIN—

moved resolution regarding—
amendment of Court of Wards Act, 1879 255

KHAN CHAUDHURI, HON'BLE MR. ASHRAF ALI—

asked questions regarding—
inconvenience of female passengers in Eastern Bengal Railway 571
life-boats in passenger steamers 571
Muhammadan population on Rajshahi Division 570
passenger steamer services 571

Khatians—

See *Questions.*

KRISHNAGAR CITY—

See *Accident at Krishnagar City.*

KUCHLER, HON'BLE MR.—

Hostel accommodation in Calcutta for Namasudra and other students of backward classes, speech on the resolution regarding— ... 163

KURSEONG—

Improvement Fund Committee. See *Questions.*
Low percentage of outlay on Public Works in—. See *Questions.*
Municipality. See *stray dogs in Kurseong Municipality.*
Water-supply, catchment area of—. See *Questions.*

L

LABOUR—

in Darjeeling and Duars. See *Questions.*

PAGE.

AHA, HON'BLE RAJA HRISHIKESH—

Asked questions regarding—
Bongong-Satkhira Railway 173
Budget 276

AKSHAM AND AKHAURA—

Waiting rooms at Laksham and Akhaura. See *Questions.*

ALITASHAR—

See *Dacoity in Lalitashar.*

ALMAI HILL,—

Tippera. See *Questions.*

ANDLORD'S—

Fees. See *Questions.*

ICENSES—

See *Gun licenses.*

IFE BOATS—

in passenger steamers. See *Questions.*

ISTED—

Posts. *See* Muhammadans to listed posts.
Services. See *Questions.*

OCAL—

Administrations and industries. See *Questions.*
Boards. See *Questions.*

ODGINGS—

For Munsifs. See *Questions.*

OWER SUBORDINATE SECTIONS—

in Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges. See *Upper and Lower Subordinate sections in Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges.*

YON, HON'BLE MR.—

Budget 336
introduced certain heads of Amended Draft Financial Statement ... 50
Speech on resolution regarding—
additional seats to educated community in Bengal Legislative Council 352
Mechanical and Engineering Departments and Vernacular Survey Classes for Dacca Engineering School ... 432

M

ACKENZIE, HON'BLE MR. J.—

asked question regarding—
Municipal Administration of Howrah 444

AGISTRATE AND COLLECTOR OF BOGRA—

See *Muhammadans to the post of Magistrate and Collector of Bogra.*

PAGE.

MAGRAHAT—

Drainage Scheme. See *Questions.*

MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR OF BURDWAN, HON'BLE—

speech on resolutions regarding—

damage by floods in certain areas in Burdwan 615

Government High School at Burdwan 610

MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES—

to interned persons. See *Questions.*

MALARIA—

in Birbhum. See *Questions.*

in Murshidabad. See *Questions.*

in Tangail. See *Questions.*

MANIKGANJ. See *Questions.*

MANUAL—

Survey and Settlement—. See *Questions.*

MARRIAGE REGISTRARS AND KAZIS—

See *Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis.*

MARTIN, HON'BLE MR. E. A.—

Made Oath of Allegiance 17

MATRICULATES. See *Questions.*

MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI, HON'BLE MAULVI—

moved resolution on Revised Financial Statement regarding reservoir for Damodhar river 157

MAZUMDAR, HON'BLE BABU AMBIKA CHARAN—

Asked questions regarding—

admission and transfer of students in Eastern and Western Bengal 521

admission of students into Medical College 388

admission of students into Sibpur Engineering College ... 388

alleged wrongful arrest by an Excise Sub-Inspector ... 386

alleged wrongful arrest by a Police Inspector 387

Dacca University scheme 385

Faridpur and river Padma 532

internment of persons in Bengal 478

internments 446

legislation for establishment of proposed University at Dacca 385

municipal disenfranchisement of graduates and under-graduates 445

Nagendra Kumar Guha Ray 530

Pay and prospects of teachers in Government service ... 529

Prisoner in Mymensingh Jail, death of— 530

Private tuition by teachers in Government service ... 530

Proceedings under Defence of India Act 532

subordinate Educational service 529

Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 372

Speech on resolution regarding—

hostel accommodation for Muhammadan students in Calcutta 436

Mechanical and Electrical Departments and Vernacular Survey Classes for Dacca Engineering School 431

rural water-supply 495

trial by jury 589

PAGE.

MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENTS AND VERNACULAR SURVEY CLASSES FOR DACCA ENGINEERING SCHOOLS—

See *Resolutions.*

MEDICAL COLLEGE—

See *Questions.*

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS—

See *Questions.*

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OF CALCUTTA—

See *Resolutions.*

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS—

See *Questions.*

MEDICAL STUDENTS—

See *Hostel for medical students.*

MIANJI TRAINING SCHOOLS—

See *Questions.*

MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE—

See *Economic condition of middle class people.*

MIDDLE COURSES—

See *Primary and Middle Courses.*

MIDDLE SCHOOL—

See *Revival of Middle School Final Examination.*

MITRA, HON'BLE MR PRAVASH CHANDRA—

asked questions regarding—

construction of a spill area for Tolly's Nala 403
Dr. Bentley's anti-malarial scheme 402
expenditure on repair of tanks and hospitals by District Boards 540
Union Committees 416

moved resolution regarding—

rural water-supply 484

Speech on resolution regarding—

rural water-supply 507

MITRA BAHADUR, HON'BLE RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA—

asked questions regarding—

accident at Krishnagar City 467
cattle-poisoning in Bengal 536
College Messes and University Circular 465
duly qualified medical practitioners 411
Halisahar Municipality, sanitation and partition of— ... 461
hostel for medical students in Calcutta 465
insanitary condition of Berhampore 540
inundation of Kadua Math 467
list of registered medical practitioners 411
organization of Union Committees 461
periodical floods in Burdwan Division 534
prevention of adulteration of foods 466

PAGE.

MITRA BAHADUR, HON'BLE RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA—*concluded.*

asked questions regarding—*concluded.*

Public Works Cess and District Boards 409
Public Works Cess, utilization of 461
registered medical practitioners at principal local places ... 412
revival of Middle School Final Examination 536
syllabus of Primary and Middle Courses in Schools ... 536
tramway taccidents 466
Union Committees 416, 536
Union residents in Union Committees, representation of— ... 539

Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 417

Speech on resolution regarding—

damage by floods in certain areas in Burdwan 616
rural water-supply 493
trial by jury 596

MOOKERJEE, HON'BLE SIR RAJENDRA NATH—

Speech on resolution regarding—

Mechanical and Electrical Departments and Vernacular Survey Classes for Dacca Engineering School 429

MORTALITY—

Due to malarial causes. See *Questions.*
Infant—in the Presidency. See *Questions.*
In Rajshahi. See *Questions.*
Infantile—in Calcutta and suburbs. See *Questions.*

MUHAMMADAN EDUCATION—

Expenditure on—. See *Questions.*

MUHAMMADAN ELECTORATE—

Election to Bengal Legislative Council by special Muhammadan electorate. See

MUHAMMADAN MARRIAGE REGISTRARS AND KAZIS—

See *Resolutions.*

MUHAMMADAN MUKHTARS—

See *Questions.*

MUHAMMADAN POPULATION IN RAJSHAHI DIVISION—

See *Questions.*

MUHAMMADAN REPRESENTATION IN MUNICIPALITIES—

See *Questions.*

MUHAMMADAN STUDENTS—

See *Hostel accommodation for Muhammadan students.*

MUHAMMADAN STUDENTS IN CALCUTTA—

See *Questions.*

MUHAMMADANS AND OFFICIATING MUNSIFSHIPS—

See *Questions.*

MUHAMMADANS AND PROVINCIAL JUDICIAL SERVICE—

See *Questions.*

PAGE.

MUHAMMADANS IN DISTRICT JUDGE'S OFFICES AT BIRBHUM—

See *Questions.*

MUHAMMADANS TO LISTED POSTS—

See *Questions.*

MUHAMMADANS TO POST OF—

Magistrate and Collector of Bogra. See *Questions.*

MUKHERJI BAHADUR, HON'BLE RAI P. N.—

appointed Member of Select Committee on Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 372
Budget 327
introduced certain heads of the Amended Draft Financial Statement ... 55
Speech on resolution regarding—
trial by jury 606

MUKHTARS—

See *Muhammadan Mukhtars.*

MUNICIPAL—

administration of Howrah. See *Questions.*
disfranchisement. See *Questions.*

MUNICIPALITIES—

in Bengal. See *Questions.*
Muhammadan representation in—. See *Questions.*

MUNSIFS—

Lodgings for munsifs. See *Questions.*

MUNSIFSHIPS—

See *Muhammadans and officiating munsifships.*

MURSHIDABAD—

Malaria in—district. See *Questions.*
Municipality. See *Azimganj and Murshidabad Municipalities.*
Pension-holders of the Nizamat family of—. See *Questions.*

MUSHARRAF HUSAIN, HON'BLE KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI—

Budget 277
Economic condition of middle class people 357

MYMENSINGH—

Jail. See *Prisioner in Mymensingh Jail.*

N

NAGENDRA KUMAR GUHA RAY—

See *Questions.*

NAMASUDRA—

and other students of backward classes. See *Pal Bahadur, Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan.*

PAGE.

NASHIPUR, HON'BLE MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA OF—

asked questions regarding—

condition of Bhagirathi river 4
malaria in Birbhum 18
malaria in Murshidabad 3
plague in Birbhum 18
service of summonses in rent-suits 3
sites for reservoirs near Damodar river 4
water-works scheme for Suri municipality 19

See also *Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur, Hon'ble Maharaja—*

NAWAB ALI CHOUDHURI KHAN BAHADUR, HON'BLE NAWAB SAYID—

asked question regarding—

Electrical Departments of Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges 264
Electrical Power-house at Dacca College 265
record-of-rights operations in Eastern Bengal 260
settlement operations in Eastern Bengal 262
Upper and Lower Subordinate sections in Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges 263

Budget 290

Speech on resolution regarding—

additional seats to educated community in Bengal Legislative Council 356

NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, HON'BLE—

Budget 274

NILRATAN SIRCAR, HON'BLE DR.—

supported resolution regarding—

anti-malarial operations in the Presidency Division ... 160

NOAKHALI—

See *Headquarters of—. Islands of Hatiya and—.*

O

OATH—

or Affirmation of Allegiance 17, 260, 368, 376

OBSERVATORY HILL,—

Darjeeling. See *Questions.*

ORGANIZATION OF—

Union Committees. See *Questions.*

OVERCROWDING—

in Jails See *Questions.*

P

PABNA—

Proposed subdivision of—district. See *Questions.*
Railway communication in—. See *Questions.*
See also *Questions.*

PADMA—

Faridpur and river —. See *Questions.*
River. See *Questions.*

PAGE.

PAL BAHADUR, HON'BLE RAI RADHA CHARAN—

asked questions regarding—

Cart nuisance in Calcutta 453
complaints against Lady Dufferin Hospital authorities ... 521
internments 454
proposed sub-division of Pabna district 21
regulation of traffic in Calcutta streets 453
sanitary improvement in suburbs of Calcutta 452
strike of students in Sibpur Engineering College 454

Bengal Smoke-nuisances (Amendment) Bill 41
Budget 285
Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 418

moved resolutions on Revised Financial Statement regarding—

Anti-malarial operations in the Presidency Division ...158, 162
Hostel accommodation in Calcutta for Namasudra and other students of backward classes 163, 165

Speech on resolutions regarding—

closing of offices and institutions on Id-ul-Fitr 483
election of members in selected District Boards in Bengal ... 59
rural water-supply 499
trial by Jury 603

PANTON, HON'BLE MR.—

appointed member of Select Committee on Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 372

PAPER-MAKING—

factories. Number of—in the Presidency. See *Questions*.
industry and starting of factories. See *Questions*.

PARESH CHANDRA BOSE—

See *Questions*.

PASSENGER—

station at Ultadinghi. See *Questions*.
steamer services. See *Questions*.
traffic between Sara and Ishrudi. See *Questions*.

PASTURE LANDS—

Improvement of cattle and provision of—. See *Questions*.

PATIT LAND—

See *Questions*.

PAY—

and prospects of teachers in Government service. See *Questions*.

PAYNE, HON'BLE MR.—

appointed member of Select Committee on Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 372

PENSIONS—

and gratuities to relatives of deceased Government officers, assassinated. See *Questions*.

PERIODICAL—

floods in Burdwan Division. See *Questions*.

PAGE

PERSIAN—

See *Arabic and Persian in High English Schools.*

PIROJPUR—

See *Questions.*

PLAGUE—

in Birbhum. See *Questions.*
of water-hyacinth. See *Questions.*

POISONING—

See *cattle-poisoning in Bengal.*

POLICE—

Inspector. See *Questions.*
Officer. See *Dismissal of Police Officer.*

POLITICAL—

crimes. See *Questions.*

PRESIDENCY—

College. See *Admission into Presidency College.*
Division. See *Questions.*

PRESIDENT—

Address 362, 369, 441, 574

PRIMARY—

And Middle Courses, Syllabus of—. See *Questions.*
Education in Bengal. See *Questions.*
Examinations. See *Questions.*
Schools. See *Questions.*

PRISONER—

In Mymensingh Jail. See *Questions.*
Special class—. See *Questions.*

PRIVATE—

Tuition by teachers in Goverment service. See *Questions.*

PROCEEDINGS—

Under Defence of India Act. See *Questions.*

PROSPECTS—

Of teachers in Government service, Pay and—. See *Questions.*

PROVIDENT—

Societies. See *Questions.*

PROVINCIAL—

Judicial Service, Muhammadans and—. See *Questions.*
Services. See *Questions.*

PUBLIC WORKS—

Low percentage of outlay on—in Kurseong. See *Questions.*
Cess. See *Questions.*
Cess, assignment of—to District Boards. See *Questions.*
Department. See *Questions*

PAGE.

Q

QUESTIONS REGARDING—

Abolition of Survey classes in Dacca School of Engineering ... 36
Accident at Krishnagar City 467
Accommodation and staff in Colleges 400
Accommodation on Assam-Bengal Railway 472
Admission and transfer of students in Eastern and Western Bengal ... 521
Admission into Medical College 388
Admission into medical institutions 414
Admission into Sibpur Engineering College 388
Advertising of vacancies in Government Offices 34
Affiliation of High English Schools in mufassal districts 18
Agricultural Department, Expert in— 565
Agricultural research, results of— 565
Alleged insanitary condition of Midnapore 459
Amount spent on construction of public buildings in Bengal ... 460
Anti-malarial scheme, Dr. Bentley's— 402
Appointments held by Muhammadans in listed posts 479
Appointments held by Muhammadans in Provincial Services, etc. ... 409
Appointments in Bengal Secretariat 31
Arabic and Persian, teaching of—in High English Schools ... 175
Arrests under Rule 12A of the Defence of India Rules ... 473
Assistant Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education ... 408
Augmentation grant and assignment of Public Works cess to District Boards 568
Birth and death rates in Presidency Division 377
Bongong-Satkhira Railway 173
Breaches in Gumti embankments 548
Calcutta Improvement Trust 514
Calcutta to Barisal Railway extension 172
Cart-nuisance in Calcutta 453
Catchment area of Kurseong water-supply, dual control of— ... 573
Cattle-poisoning in Bengal 536
Central Committee for Juvenile Jail 521
Charges of touring officers of Department of Education 415
Closing of level-crossing gate at Conarpara in Burdwan 458
College messes and the University Circular 465
Communication between Pabna and northern districts of Rajshahi ... 404
Condition of Ajai embankment near Satkonia 558
Condition of Bhagirathi river 4
Confinement under Defence of India Rules and Bengal Regulation III of 1818 473
Confinement under Rule 12A of Defence of India Rules 475
Congestion in intermediate carriages on Eastern Bengal Railway ... 405
Consumption, etc., of sugar 383
Cost of settlement operations in Rajshahi 451
Cyclone and floods in September, 1916 519
Dacca suspects 74
Dacca University scheme 385
Dacoity in Lalitashar, Tippera 542
Daily steamer service between Island of Hatiya and Noakhali ... 557
Date and sugarcane cultivation 382
Death of Head Constable Paresh Chandra Bose 555
Death sentences by Sessions Courts 570
Demand for medical practitioners 389
Demonstrators in Agricultural Department 566
Deputy Collectors on foreign service 273

PAGE.

QUESTIONS REGARDING—*continued.*

Deputy Directorship of Fisheries 566
Destruction of cattle by flood 17
Difficulty of admission of students into colleges 400
Dismissal of Police Officer 543
Dr. Bentley's anti-malarial scheme 459
Drinking-water in rural areas and other sanitary improvements ... 269, 271
Economic position in Bengal 382
Education of backward classes 384
Election to Bengal Legislative Council by special Muhammadan electorate 532
Electrical Departments of Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges ... 264
Electrical Power-house at Dacca College 265
Embankments on Ajai river 558
Employment of Kanungos displaced for suspension settlement operations 405
Encouragement of Indian manufactures 25
Executive and Judicial functions, separation of— 513
Expenditure on Muhammadan education 35
Expenditure on repairs of tanks and hospitals 540
Famine in Bankura 458
Fares on Eastern Bengal Railway over Hardinge Bridge 405
Faridpur and river Padma 532
Fibre Expert's jute seeds demonstrations 273
Fines by Settlement Officers 449
Fire Brigade (Calcutta), extension of scope of— 172
Floods in Tippera 400, 548
Free studentships to Muhammadan students in High Schools ... 415
Government exodus to Darjeeling 518
Government High Schools in Mufassal 407
Grant of maintenance allowances to interned persons 475
Grants for sanitation in Bengal 36
Grants to District Boards 569
Gumti Embankments 549, 551
Gun licenses in Burdwan 561
Halisahar Municipality, Sanitation and partition of— 461
High English Schools at Bhola, Jamalpur, Jhalakati and Pirojpur ... 414
High mortality in Manikganj 377
Hostel accommodation of Muhammadan students 554
Hostel for medical students in Calcutta 465
House searches in Dacca 78
Improvement of cattle and provision of pasture lands 24
Inconvenience of female passengers on Eastern Bengal Railway ... 571
Indigo cultivation in Bengal 383
Industrial Co-operative Societies and Loans, Agricultural and Dairy Farms and Fruit Culture 22
Industries in Bengal 382
Infantile mortality in Calcutta and Suburbs 451
Infant mortality in the Presidency 28
Inquiries into affairs of Provident Societies 568
Insanitary condition of Berhampore 540
Intermediate passed students of 1916 and their admission into Colleges 413
Internments 446, 454
Internment of persons in Bengal 478
Internments under Defence of India Act 472, 545, 546, 561
Interviews with and transference of interned persons 474
Inundation of Kadua Math 467

PAGE.

QUESTIONS REGARDING—*continued.*

Jessore Drainage Division 515
Judicial and Revenue duties in Burdwan—
Separation of— 559
Judicial work in Burdwan Courts 559
Juma prayers and Muhammadan Mukhtars of Burdwan 560
Jungles, drainage, tanks, wells and insanitary hollows and depressions 70
Kerbelai Imambarah in Portuguese Church Street 31
Khatians of Rajshahi, Recording of— 451
Kurseong Improvement Fund Committee 74
Labour in Darjeeling and the Duars 24
Labours of the Department of Fisheries for propagation and protection of fish 567
Lack of hostel accommodation 469
Lack of waiting-rooms and sheds on Eastern Bengal Railway ... 556
Lack of waiting-rooms at Brahmanbaria Station 471
Lady Dufferin Hospital authorities 521
Landlord's fees under Bengal Tenancy Act 513
Legislation for proposed Dacca University 385
Life boats in passenger steamers 571
Loans from Co-operative Credit Banks 17
Local administrations and industries 382
Lodgings for Munsifs in Eastern Bengal 460
Low percentage of outlay on Public Works in Kurseong 25
Magrahat drainage scheme 21
Malaria in Birbhum 18
Malaria in Murshidabad 3
Malaria in Tangail 555
Matriculates of 1916 and their admission into Colleges 413
Mianji training schools 407
Mortality due to malarial causes 22
Mortality in Rajshahi 27
Muhammadan population in Rajshahi Division 570
Muhammadan representation in Municipalities 562
Muhammadan students in Calcutta 469
Muhammadans and officiating Munsifships 563
Muhammadans and Provincial Judicial Service 563
Muhammadans in District Judge's offices at Birbhum 560
Muhammadans to listed posts, appointment of— 479
Muhammadans to post of Magistrate and Collector of Bogra, non-appointment of— 429
Municipal Admistration of Howrah 444
Municipal disfranchisement of graduates and under-graduates ... 445
Municipalities in Bengal 475
Nagendra Kumar Guha Ray 530
Nomination of Members of District and Local Boards 406
Non-closing of public offices at Suri during Id-ul-Fitr 457
Number of medical students 388
Number of paper-making factories in the Presidency 26
Number of students reading in Colleges 400
Observatory Hill, Darjeeling 456
Organisation of Union Committees 461
Overcrowding in jails 520
Padma river 19
Paper-making industry and the starting of factories 26
Passenger station at Ultadinghi 515
Passenger steamer services 571

PAGE.

QUESTIONS REGARDING—*continued.*

Passenger traffic between Sara and Ishrudi 457
Patit lands in Rajshahi district, settlement operations of— 573
Pay and prospects of teachers in Government service 529
Payment of school-fees in Eastern Bengal 2
Pension-holders of the Nizamat family of Murshidabad 32
Pensions and gratuities to relatives of deceased Government officers, assassinated 28
Periodical floods in Burdwan Division 534
Plague in Birbhum 18
Plague of water-hyacinth 557
Political crimes 273
Presidency College, admission into— 468
Prevention of adulteration of food 466
Primary education in Bengal 470
Primary examinations 268
Prisoner in Mymensingh Jail, death of— 530
Private tuition by teachers in Government service 530
Proceedings under Defence of India Act 532
Promotion of Sub-Registrars in grade IV of Registration Department 33
Proportion of qualified medical practitioners to number of villages ... 389
Proposed acquisition of certain villages in 24-Parganas 31
Proposed sub-division of Pabna district 21
Prospects of clerks in Registration offices 33
Prospects of Sub-Registrars in grades IV and V of Registration Department 33
Provident Societies 568
Provincial Judicial Service—
and Small Cause Court Judgeships 561
Appointments to— 173, 174
Communal representation in— 563
Promotions in— 564
Public Works Cess—
and District Boards 410
Utilization of— 461
Purchase by Government of indigenous goods 26
Railway Communication—
In Pabna 457
In Rajshahi 403
Ranaghat-Krishnagar Railway, close of— 452
Record-of-rights operations in Eastern Bengal 260
Recovery of rents under Bengal Tenancy Act 447
Registered medical practitioners at principal local places 412
Regulation of traffic in Calcutta streets 453
Relations between zamindars and tenants 24
Relief work in Tippera 401
Resistance to dacoits by public 519
Revival of Middle School Final Examination 536
Sale notices of Civil Courts 20
Sanitary improvement in suburbs of Calcutta 452
Sanitation in Rajshahi 28
Service of summonses in rent-suits 3
Sessions cases in mufassal 570
Settlement in Rajshahi Division 555
Settlement operations in Eastern Bengal 262

PAGE.

QUESTION REGARDING—*continued.*

Settlement operations in Rajshahi district—
Conference regarding costs of— 573
Cost of— 572
Recovery of costs of—by instalments 573
Sites for reservoirs near Damodar river 4
"Special class" prisoners 521
Spill area for Tolly's Nala 403
Statistics of persons dealt with under Rule 3 of Defence of India Rules and Bengal Regulation III of 1818 473
Statistics relating to importation of tea into India 533
Steamer communication in Rajshahi 403
Strengthening of the Gumti embankments 20
Strike of students in Sibpur Engineering College 454
Subordinate Educational Service 529
Subsidizing of industries by Government 382
Survey and Settlement Manual—
publication of a revised edition of— 572
Syllabus of Primary and Middle courses 536
Tax on stray dogs in Kurseong Municipality 573
Teachers for Primary and Secondary Institutions 25
Technical institutions at Dacca and Lalmai Hill, Tippera ... 75, 76
Trained *dhais* in villages 72
Tramway accidents 466
Transfer of head-quarters of Noakhali 556
Travelling charges of touring officers of Agricultural Department ... 414
Ufra paddy disease in Chittagong Division 271
Uneasiness among the people of Calcutta owing to issue of a notification declaring certain areas to be defended harbours under Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules, 1915 22
Union Committees 416, 536
Union residents in Union Committees, representation of— 539
Un-recognized High schools in Bengal 470
Upkeep of public temples 556
Upper and Lower Primary schools 390
Upper and Lower Subordinate sections in Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges 263
Upper Subordinate posts, Muhammadans in—in Public Works Department 457
Vacancies in Bengal Secretariat Establishment 33
Village sanitation and supply of good drinking water 72
Waiting-rooms at Laksham and Akhaura stations 471
Waterworks scheme for Azimganj and Murshidabad Municipalities ... 270
Waterworks scheme for Suri Municipality 19
Wrongful arrest by an Excise Sub-Inspector 386
Wrongful arrest by a Police-Inspector 387
Zakariah Street, cutting of— 516
Zanana education 268

R

RAI BAHADUR, HON'BLE RAI PRASANNA KUMAR—

Asked question regarding—
Deputy Collectors on foreign service 273
Budget 309

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION IN PABNA—

See *Questions.*

PAGE.

RAJSHAHI—

Mortality in—. See *Questions.*
Sanitation in—. See *Questions.*
See also *Questions.*

RAJSHAHI DISTRICT—

Settlement operations in—. See *Questions.*

RAJSHAHI DIVISION—

Muhammadan population in—. See *Questions.*
Settlement in—. See *Questions.*

RANAGHAT-KRISHNAGAR RAILWAY—

See *Questions.*

RANAJIT SINHA OF NASHIPUR, HON'BLE MAHARAJA—

Asked questions regarding—
Drinking water in rural areas and other sanitary improvements 269, 271
Primary examinations 268
Waterworks scheme for Azimganj and Murshidabad Municipalities 270
Zanana education 268
Budget 297
Supported resolution regarding—
Anti-malarial operations in Presidency Division ... 159
See also *Nashipur, Hon'ble Maharaja Ranjit Sinha of—.*

RASUL, HON'BLE MR. A.—

Asked question regarding—
Election to Bengal Legislative Council by special Muhammadan electorate 532
Speech on resolutions regarding—
Closing of offices and institutions on Id-ul-Fitr 483
Rural water-supply 495
Trial by jury 602
Supported resolution regarding—
Mechanical and electrical departments and vernacular survey classes for Dacca Engineering School 427

RAY CHAUDHURI, HON'BLE BABU BRAJENDRA KISHOR—

Affirmation of allegiance to the Crown 376

RAY CHAUDHURI—

Hon'ble Raja Mahendra Ranjan—. See *Chaudhuri.*

RAY, HON'BLE BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA—

Asked questions regarding—
Agricultural Department, Expert in— 565
Agricultural research, Results of— 565
Arrests under Rule 12A of Defence of India Rules ... 473
Augmentation grant and assignment of Public Works Cess to District Boards 568
Birth and death-rates in Presidency Division 377
Central Committee for Juvenile Jail 521
Close of Ranaghat-Krishnagar Railway 452
Confinement under Defence of India Rules and Bengal Regulation III of 1818 473

PAGE.

RAY, HON'BLE BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA—*concluded.*

Asked questions regarding—*concluded.*

Confinement under Rule 12A of Defence of India Rules ... 475
Consumption, etc., of sugar in Bengal 383
Death sentences by Session Courts 570
Demonstrators in Agricultural Department 566
Deputy Directorship of Fisheries 566
Economic position in Bengal 382
Education of backward classes in Bengal 384
Effect of cyclone and floods in September, 1916 519
Expenditure for maintenance of Fisheries Department ... 567
Grant of maintenance allowances to interned persons ... 475
Grants to District Boards 569
High mortality in Manickganj 377
Improvement of date and sugarcane cultivation 382
Industries in Bengal 382
Infantile mortality in Calcutta and Suburbs 451
Inquiries into affairs of Provident Societies 568
Internments under Defence of India Act 472
Interviews with, and transference of, interned persons ... 474
Local administrations and industries 382
Overcrowding in jails 520
Protection of fish by Department of Fisheries 567
Provident Societies 568
Resistance to dacoits by public 519
Reviving of indigo cultivation in Bengal 383
Sessions cases in mufassal 570
"Special class" prisoners 521
Statistics of persons dealt with under Rule 3 of Defence of India Rules and Bengal Regulation III of 1818 ... 473
Subsidizing of industries by Government 382

Speech on resolutions regarding—

Rural water-supply 491
Trial by jury 593

Supported resolution regarding—

Mechanical and electrical departments and vernacular survey classes for Dacca Engineering School 425

RAY, HON'BLE BABU MAHENDRA NATH—

Appointed member of Select Committee on Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendments) Bill 372
Budget 299

Moved Resolution regarding—

Election of members in selected District Boards in Bengal 56, 58, 62

Speech on resolution regarding—

rural water-supply 500

RAY, HON'BLE BABU SURENDRA NATH—

Asked questions regarding—

Fire Brigade (Calcutta), extension of scope of— 172
Government exodus to Darjeeling 518
Budget 295, 329

Moved resolution regarding—

Additional seats to educated community in Bengal in local Legislative Council 348

PAGE.

RAY, HON'BLE BABU SURENDRA NATH—*concluded.*

Speech on Resolutions regarding—

Election of members in selected District Boards in Bengal ... 58
Mechanical and electrical departments and vernacular survey classes for Dacca Engineering School 427
Rural water-supply 488
Trial by jury 586

RAY, HON'BLE BABU UPENDRA LAL—

Asked questions regarding—

Appointments in Begal Secretariat 31
Fibre Expert's jute seed demonstrations 273
Padma river 19
Pensions and gratuities to relatives of deceased Government officers, assassinated 28
Political crimes 273
Provincial Judicial Service, Appointments to— 173, 174
sale notices of Civil Courts 20
strengthening of Gumti embankments 20
Ufra paddy disease 271
Budget 281

RAY, HON'BLE KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR—

Asked questions regarding—

cost of settlement operations in Rajshahi 451
education of minors under Court of Wards 448
fines by Settlement Officers 449
Khatians of Rajshahi, Recording of— 451
Provincial Judicial Service, Appointments to— 447
recovery of rents under Bengal Tenancy Act 447
settlement operations of *patit* lands in Rajshahi district ... 573
settlement operations in Rajshahi district, Conference regarding costs of— 573
settlement operations in Rajshahi district, Cost of— ... 572
settlement operations in Rajshahi district, Recovery of cost of—by instalments 573
Survey and Settlement Manual, Publication of a revised edition of— 572

Speech on resolution regarding—

rural water-supply 498

RECORD-OF-RIGHTS—

Operations in Eastern Bengal. See *Questions.*

RECOVERY—

Of rent. See *Questions.*

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT—

Promotion of Sub-Registrars in grade IV of—. See *Questions.*
Prospects of Sub-Registrars in grades IV and V of—. See *Questions.*

REGISTRATION OFFICES—

Prospects of clerks in—. See *Questions.*
See *Clerks and Mohurrirs in Registration offices.*

REGULATION OF TRAFFIC—

See *Questions.*

PAGE.

REGULATION III OF 1818—

See *Bengal*—

RENT-SUITS—

Service of summonses in—. See *Questions*.

RESERVOIRS—

Sites for—near Damodar river. See *Questions*.

RESISTANCE TO DACOITS BY PUBLIC—

See *Questions*.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING—

Additional seats to educated community in Bengal in Local Legislative Council 348
Admission of Muhammadan students into Medical Institutions of Calcutta, postponed 435
Amendment of Court of Wards Act, 1879 255
Close of offices and institutions on Id-ul-Fitr 482
Damage by floods in certain areas in Burdwan district 611
Election of additional member to Bengal Legislative Council by non-official Commissioners of Calcutta Corporation 64
Election of members in selected District Boards in Bengal 56
Embankment on southern bank of Ajai 480
Establishment of a Government High School at Burdwan 484
Government High School at Burdwan 610
Hostel accommodation for Muhammadan students in Calcutta ... 435
Mechanical and electrical departments and vernacular survey classes for Dacca Engineering School 421
Metalling of certain roads under the Duars Improvement Scheme ... 6
Offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis 171
Proposal to frame a scheme for execution of Civil Court Commissions 64
Provision for Kanungos discharged for stoppage of Survey and Settlement operations 440
Rural water-supply 481, 484
Special Jury system, withdrawn 610
Stoppage of all travelling and halting allowances of Gazetted Civil Officers and Members of Council 68
Trial by Jury 575
Trial by Jury, withdrawn 610

REVENUE DUTIES—

See *Judicial and—in Burdwan*.

REVIVAL OF MIDDLE SCHOOL FINAL EXAMINATION—

See *Questions*.

RIVER—

Condition of Bhagirathi—. See *Questions*.
Sites for reservoirs near Damodar—. See *Questions*.

RULES—

See *Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules 1915*.

RURAL AREAS—

See *Drinking water in rural areas*.

RURAL WATER-SUPPLY—

See *Resolutions*.

PAGE.

S

SAIYID HOSSAIN HAIDER CHAUDHURI—

Hon'ble Nawab—Khan Bahadur. See *Haider Chaudhuri.*

SANITARY improvement. See *Questions.*

SANITATION, Grants for—in Bengal. See *Questions.*
in Rajshahi. See *Questions.*
Village—. See *Questions.*

SARA and Ishrudi, Passenger traffic between—. See *Questions.*

SARBADHIKARI, HON'BLE DR. DEBA PRASAD—

Budget 301, 302
Speech on the resolutions regarding—
Additional seats to educated community in Bengal Legislative Council 355
Hostel accommodation in Calcutta for Namasudra and other students of backward classes 164

SATKHIRA. Bongong-Satkhira Railway. See *Questions.*

SATKONIA, Condition of Ajai embankment near—. See *Questions.*

SCHOOL(S), Affiliation of high English—in mufassal districts. See *Questions.*

SCHOOL-FEES, Payment of—in Eastern Bengal. See *Questions.*

SESSIONS cases in mufassal. See *Questions.*

SESSION Courts. See *Questions.*

SETTLEMENT in Rajshahi Division. See *Questions.*

Officer, Fines by—. See *Questions.*
operations in Eastern Bengal. See *Questions.*
operations, Cost of — in Rajshahi. See *Questions.*
————————in Rajshahi district. See *Questions.*

SHAMS-UL-HUDA, HON'BLE NAWAB SIR SYED—

Appointed member of Select Committee on Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 372
Budget 327, 329, 330, 331, 334
Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 371, 373, 417, 419
Introduced certain heads of the amended draft Financial Statement ... 53

Opposed resolutions regarding—
Clerks and mohurrirs in Registration Offices, Pay of — ... 170
Munsifs, Pay of— 167
Offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis—Inspection and supervision of— 172
Presented Report of Select Committee on Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill, 1916 417

Speech on the resolutions regarding—
Anti-malarial operations in Presidency Division 161, 163
Election of members in selected District Boards in Bengal ... 58, 61
Hostel accommodation for Muhammadan students in Calcutta 437, 439
Proposal to frame a scheme for execution of Civil Court Commissions ... ... 67 & 68
Rural water-supply 503
Trial by Jury 595, 606

PAGE.

SHEDS—

See *Waiting-rooms and —on Eastern Bengal Railway.*

SIBPUR AND DACCA ENGINEERING COLLEGE—

See *Electrical Departments of Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges. Upper and Lower Subordinate sections in Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges.*

SIBPUR ENGINEERING COLLEGE—

See *Strike of students in—.*

SINHA, HON'BLE BABU ARUN CHANDRA—

Asked questions regarding—

Daily steamer service between Hatiya and Noakhali ... 557
Lack of waiting-rooms and sheds on Eastern Bengal Railway ... 556
Plague of water-hyacinth 557
Transfer of head-quarters of Noakhali 556
Upkeep of public temples 556

SINE DIE—

Adjourned 365

SMALL CAUSE COURT JUDGESHIPS—

See *Questions.*

SMOKE-NUISANCES, BENGAL—

(Amendment) Bill. See *Bill.*

SOCIETIES—

See *Provident Societies.*

SPECIAL—

Class prisoners. See *Questions.*

STATISTICS—

Relating to importation of tea into India. See *Questions.*

STEAMER SERVICE(S)—

Daily steamer service between Hatiya and Noakhali. See *Questions.*
Passenger—. See *Questions.*

STRAY—

Dogs in Kurseong Municipality, Tax on— . See *Questions.*

STRIKE OF—

Students in Sibpur Engineering College. See *Questions.*

SUBORDINATE—

Educational Service. See *Questions.*

SUB-REGISTRARS—

Promotion of—in grade IV of Registration Department. See *Questions.*
Prospects of—in grades IV and V of Registration Department. See *Questions.*

SUBSIDIZING OF—

Industries by Government. See *Questions.*

PAGE.

SUGAR—

See *Questions.*

SUGARCANE—

Cultivation. Date and sugarcane cultivation. See *Questions.*

SUHRAWARDY, HON'BLE MR. Z. R. ZAHID—

Appointed Member of Select Committee on Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill 372

Asked questions regarding—

Muhammadans and officiating Munsifships 563

Muhammadans and Provincial Judicial Service 563

Muhammadans to listed posts—Appointment of— 479

Muhammadans to post of Magistrate and Collector of Bogra —Non-appointment of 479

Provincial Judicial Service—Communal representation of ... 563

Provincial Judicial Service—Promotions in— 564

Speech on resolutions regarding—

Closing of offices and institutions on Id-ul-Fitr 483

Trial by Jury 600

SUMMONSES, SERVICE OF—

In all rent suits. See *Questions.*

SURI—

Non-closing of offices at Suri during Id-ul-Fitr. See *Questions.*

Water works Scheme for—Municipality. See *Questions.*

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT—

Manual. See *Questions.*

Operations. See *Resolutions.*

SURVEY CLASSES—

Abolition of—

In the Dacca School of Engineering. See *Questions.*

SYLLABUS OF—

Primary and Middle courses. See *Questions.*

T

TANGAIL—

Malaria in Tangail. See *Questions.*

TANKS AND HOSPITALS—

Expenditure on repairs of—. See *Questions.*

TANKS AND WELLS—

See *Questions.*

TEACHERS—

For Primary and Secondary Institutions. See *Questions.*

TEA—

See *Importation of tea into India.*

TEMPLES—

Upkeep of public temples. See *Questions.*

PAGE.

TENANTS—

Relations between zamindars and—. See *Questions.*

TIPPERA—

See *Floods in Tippera district, Lalmai Hill and Tippera. Questions.*

TOLLY'S NALA—

See *Questions.*

TRAMWAY ACCIDENTS—

See *Questions.*

TRANSFER OF—

Head-quarters of Noakhali. See *Questions.*

TRIAL BY JURY—

See *Resolutions.*

U

URFA PADDY DISEASE—

See *Questions.*

UNDER-GRADUATES—

See *Graduates and—.*

UNION COMMITTEES—

See *Organization of—.*

UNION RESIDENTS—

In Union Committees. See *Questions.*

UNIVERSITY CIRCULAR—

See *College Messes and—.*

UNRECOGNISED HIGH SCHOOLS—

In Bengal. See *Questions.*

UPPER AND LOWER SUBORDINATE—

Sections in Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges. See *Questions*

UPPER SUBORDINATE POSTS—

See *Questions.*

ULTADINGHI—

See *Passenger station at Ultadinghi.*

V

VACANCIES—

Advertising of—in Government offices. See *Questions.*
In Bengal Secretariat Establishment. See *Questions.*

VILLAGE SANITATION—

See *Questions.*

PAGE.

W

WAITING ROOMS—

At Brahmanbaria station. See *Questions*.

At Laksham and Akhaura stations. See *Questions*.

And sheds on Eastern Bengal Railway. See *Lack of*—

WATER-HYACINTH—

See *Plague of*—.

WATER-SUPPLY

See *Kurseong*—. *Rural*—.

WATER WORKS SCHEME FOR—

Azimganj and Murshidabad Municipalities. See *Questions*.

Suri Municipality. See *Questions*.

WELLS

See *Tanks and Wells*.

Z

ZAKARIAH STREET—

See *Questions*.

ZAMINDARS—

Relations between—and tenants. See *Questions*.

ZANANA EDUCATION—

See *Questions*.

B. S. Press—21.3.1917—2955L—351—I. L. & others.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in Government House on Wednesday, the 12th January, 1916, at 11 A.M.

Present :

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., *Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I., *Vice-President.*

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA.

The Hon'ble MR. N. D. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble COL. W. R. EDWARDS, C.B., C.M.G.

The Hon'ble MR. F. J. MONAHAN.

The Hon'ble MR. J. LANG.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. K. C. DE, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. DONALD.

The Hon'ble MR. L. BIRLEY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble MR. C. H. BOMPAS.

The Hon'ble MR. B. C. MITRA.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNELL.

The Hon'ble MR. C. F. PAYNE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. B. H. PANTON

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. H. J. HILARY.

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR.

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. R. GLEN.

The Hon'ble MR. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI.

The Hon'ble SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA JAGADINDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble RAJA SHOSHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHAUDHURI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble BABU RAMTARAN BANERJI.

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR

The Hon'ble MR. E. H. BRAY.

The Hon'ble MR. A. BIRKMYRE.

The Hon'ble MR. W. T. GRICE.

The Hon'ble MR. A. W. C. CHAPLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF.

The Hon'ble MAULVI MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSSAIN.

✓ The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID HOSSAM HAIDAR CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur.

The Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble RAI PRASANNA KUMAR RAY BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble CHAUDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN.

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. I.

STARRED QUESTIONS

By the Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSSAIN :—

*1. (*a*) Is it a fact that the rules regarding the payment of school-fees in Eastern Bengal differ from those in force in Western Bengal ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Government servants, such as postmasters, police-officers and other officers, in Eastern Bengal districts, find it inconvenient to pay their children's school-fees within the date prescribed by the rules for the payment of school-fees, namely, the 4th day of the month, as they generally receive their salaries after that date ?

(*c*) If so, are the Government considering the advisability of altering the rules in this connection ?

[*Mr. De: Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur: Mr. Birley.*]

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

(*a*) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) No complaints of this nature have been received by Government or the Director of Public Instruction.

(*c*) The co-ordination of the rules regarding the payment of school fees in Eastern Bengal and Western Bengal is under consideration."

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA OF NASHIPUR :—

*2. (*a*) Is it not a fact that the personal service of summonses in all rent-suits is invariably insisted upon by the Courts?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that this mode of service causes much delay in the disposal of cases and entails trouble and expense to the parties concerned?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making recommendations to the High Court to have the service effected (especially in the case of tenure-holders) by registered post under the power given to them by clause (*d*) of section 148 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885 (Act VIII of 1885)?

The Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY replied :—

"(*a*) The personal service of summonses in all rent-suits is invariably insisted upon under the rules framed by the High Court.

(*b*) & (*c*) The question of the service of summonses through the Post Office under section 148 (*d*) of the Bengal Tenancy Act has been considered by Government in the past, but the High Court and the Postal authorities were opposed to the proposal. There is no such proposal now before Government, and it is not intended to reopen this question at present."

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA OF NASHIPUR—

*3. (*a*) Are the Government aware that the number of attacks and deaths from malaria in the Murshidabad district during 1915 was higher than that of the previous year?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the quinine supplied by the Government for distribution was not sufficient to meet the requirements of the district?

(*c*) Is it a fact that there have been frequent outbreaks of cholera and also an increase in the number of malaria cases in the Murshidabad Municipality during the last two years?

(*d*) Is it also a fact that the average death-rate exceeds the birth-rate in the said municipality?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they are taking to improve the health of the people in the Murshidabad district?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"(*a*) The answer is in the negative. The number of deaths from fever for the 11 months ending the 30th November, 1915, was 45,013 as against 45,819 for the corresponding period in 1914. Statistics available do not show what proportion of these was due to malarial fever.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative. The number of grains of quinine distributed gratuitously and supplied to vendors during 1915 was respectively 9,50,200 and 6,828,000 as against 7,60,000 and 5,663,200 for the year 1914.

(*c*) As regards cholera, the answer is in the negative. The number of deaths from cholera up to the 30th November 1915, was 30 as against 115 for the year 1914. As regards malaria, the Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraph (*a*).

[*Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur : Mr. Green : Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. DE replied—*concld.*

(*d*) In common with the great majority of Bengal municipalities the recorded death-rate in Murshidabad exceeds the recorded birth-rate; but it is not possible to say whether the death-rate really does or does not exceed the birth-rate. The disinclination of parents to register births is often very great. Investigation has sometimes shown a deficiency of 50 *per cent.* in recorded births, and it is therefore extremely difficult to draw accurate conclusions from the figures which are supplied.

(*e*) A grant of Rs. 40,000 was made to the Berhampore Municipality for water-supply during the year 1914-15 and a grant of Rs. 500 for quinine during the current year. Eighteen vaccinators were deputed on special duty in connection with small-pox during the rains of 1915. The District Board of Berhampore spent Rs. 16,421 on medical charges in 1914-15."

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA OF NASHIPUR :—

The condition of the Bhagirathi river.

*4. Will the Government be pleased to state whether the condition of the river Bhagirathi has improved since the mouth of the river was last dredged and, if not, what further steps they are taking in the matter ?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

"The condition of the river Bhagirathi has not improved since the mouth of the river was dredged in the cold season of 1914-15.

Dredging operations at the mouth of the river are now in progress. It is feared that this will not cause any permanent improvement in the condition of the river Bhagirathi. The dredging of the mouth of the river will, however, be further considered in connection with the report on the Nadia Rivers recently received from Major Hirst, I.A., Director of Surveys."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI :—

Sites for the reservoirs near the Damodar river.

*5. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the sites of the reservoirs, recommended in Mr. Addams-William's scheme for mitigating the severity of the floods of the river Damodar, have been selected ;

(*ii*) whether the preliminary surveys and other works recommended in the said scheme have been completed ;

(*iii*) if the sites of the reservoirs have not yet been finally selected and the preliminary surveys, etc., have not yet been completed, what progress has been made in these matters up to the present time ; and what steps have been taken or are being taken to complete the preliminary works during the present cold season ?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

(*i*) "The site for one reservoir has been selected.

(*ii*) The preliminary surveys for the reservoir mentioned in paragraph (*i*) have been completed. The site for the second reservoir has not yet been selected and no preliminary surveys in connection therewith have been made. The other works alluded to by the Hon'ble Member are presumably—

(*a*) The excavation of an escape channel from the 38th mile of the Chetua Circuit Embankment to the 5th mile of the Rupnarain Right Embankment.—Surveys of this work have been completed. Further information has been called for and the estimates will be prepared in due course.

(*b*) The improvement and extension of the Hoorhoora khal.—Surveys of this work have been made. The estimate has been prepared and is under scrutiny.

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied—*concld.*

(*c*) The retirement of the Baxi khal embankment at the Rupnarain end and the widening of the khal.—Surveys have been made and the proposals have been examined carefully. Estimates will now be prepared and scrutinized.

(*d*) The construction of a short channel from Kharia on the Gaighatta khal to join with the Ghesapatty khal.—Surveys of this have been made and the estimate is under scrutiny.

(*e*) The declaration of certain areas under section 6 of the Embankment Act.—Steps are being taken to have these areas declared.

In connection with the Damodar river itself—

(*a*) The location and preliminary survey of one reservoir site have, as already stated, been completed. The proposed survey for the second site is in abeyance on account of the present financial stringency.

(*b*) The location of suitable places to escape flood water on the right bank of the Damodar to relieve the pressure against the left bank.—It is now anticipated that these escapes will form themselves; in other words, the escapes may be left to the action of nature.

(*c*) The provision of an escape behind the Jungalpara village on the right bank of the Damodar.—It is believed that this escape will also form of its own accord and that no artificial means need be adopted.

(*d*) The proposal for a cut between the Kana Nadi and the Mandeswari.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the resolution which stood in the name of the Hon'ble Dr. D. P. Sarbadhikari for discussion at the Council meeting in September, 1914, which was subsequently withdrawn by the Hon'ble mover. Inquiries have been made into this proposal and it has been ascertained that with the improvement of the Hoorhoora khal this work will probably be unnecessary.

(*iii*) The answer given in paragraph (*ii*) above deals fully with the progress already made and with the steps which are now being taken to complete preliminary operations."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 2.

THE BENGAL SMOKE-NUISANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1915.

The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Smoke-nuisances (Amendment) Bill, 1915.

He said :—

"My Lord, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Smoke-nuisances (Amendment) Bill. As Hon'ble Members will see from the papers in their hands, we have unfortunately not been altogether unanimous in our report. We carefully considered this Bill and we found that we had to deal with several classes of people. In the first place, there were absentee landlords, people who have seldom got friends. However, we were able to throw them a satisfactory biscuit, and I think we shall have no further difficulty in this direction. The next class of people were ladies who employ their spare time in manufacturing coke. My friend, the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, thought that we were a little hard on them, and that we should make some provision to ensure that their privacy was not unduly and unreasonably invaded. I recenly spent an evening in seeing the manufacture of coke, and I also saw and conversed with some of

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharaff Husain.

these ladies. Then I had a further discussion with the Rai Bahadur and he has now drawn up an amendment which Government are prepared to accept.

The third class of people were the steamship companies. I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Carmichael for allowing me to assist in the stoking of a British Indian steamer, the good ship *Dunera*. I must also thank her Commander, Captain Munro, her Chief Engineer, Mr. Duncan, and I may add Hijjat Ali, the serang of the stokers. I spent an extremely interesting night and did a good deal of personal stoking. I came to the conclusion that our Bill is by no means an unreasonable Bill, but I understand that some Members of the Select Committee and some Members of this House still think that the Bill is capable of improvement. We also on behalf of Government have been examining the Bill and we think it possible that even at this eleventh hour it may become non-contentious. Hitherto the discussions have been conducted on both sides with the most complete good humour, and I am sure that this will continue. We are all desirous of arriving at the same result, namely, that there should be as little smoke in Calcutta as is reasonably practical. Perhaps, the solution will be found in lubricating the wheels of administration with a little of the oil of democracy. In other words, we may perhaps see our way to dispense with an official majority on the Smoke-nuisances Board. This suggestion has been made, and we are quite willing to consider it. This would be an important change, and it could not be made on the spur of the moment. I therefore propose that, with a view to arrive at some unanimous conclusion, this Bill should be postponed until the next meeting of the Council."

RESOLUTION.

(*Under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest.*)

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 3.

The Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARAFF HUSAIN moved the following rsolution :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that the following roads be added to the list of roads to be metalled by the Public Works Department under the Duars Improvement Scheme, namely :—

(*1*) the road from Nathoahat to Ambarihat ;

(*2*) the road from Nathoahat to Gairkatahat ; and

(*3*) the road from Nathoahat to Dhupguri."

He said :—

"My Lord,—In moving this I beg to point out that we are all grateful to your Excellency for what you have done and are still doing for the improvement of the district of Jalpaiguri. I do not like to minimise at all the importance of the roads that are already in the programme. If I had been so minded, I would have taken an early opportunity of condemning it by moving a resolution to that effect in this Council. While I am fully alive to the difficulties that the higher authorities experience in making a scheme for the improvement of a place that would be acceptable to all sections of the people concerned, yet at the same time I beg to point out to your Excellency the feelings of disappointment of the Indian Planting Community in this affair, so that your Excellency may, in giving effect to the whole scheme, consider the disadvantages of the Indian Tea Planters in the Duars. My Lord, there is a strip of land running from the Bhutan hill and lying to the west of Banarhat Tea Estate and to the east of the Diana river and stretching as far as the Jaldhaka Tea Estate, a distance of about 13 miles where there exist eight gardens of various dimensions belonging to Indian Tea Planters.

[*Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharaff Husain.*]

I regret to inform your Excellency that the Duars improvement scheme has totally ignored this strip of land. European planters on both sides of this strip of land have got connection with a common centre at Barnes Junction. But I regret to notice that this middle portion belonging to the Indian Planters has not been connected with either of its two fortunate neighbours. The reason why this has been done is quite obvious. I do not for a moment want to insinuate that this has been willingly done by the framers of the scheme, but it has been done through oversight and for want of proper representation when the whole matter was considered. My Lord, we all owe a great deal to your Excellency for your sympathetic attitude towards the people of the Duars and especially because of the fact such a big scheme for the improvement of the place has been undertaken during your régime. Your Excellency very kindly deputed Mr. Finnimore, the then Chief Engineer of your Excellency's Government, to the town of Jalpaiguri to draw up a scheme for the improvement of the Jalpaiguri district some time in 1912. He was pleased to hold a conference of representative gentlemen of the district including Mr. Milligan, the then Deputy Commissioner, the Hon'ble Mr. Chaplin and myself. Mr. Finnimore explained to us that he would make a grand trunk road starting from Tetulia, the westernmost point of the district of Jalpaiguri to the town of Jalpaiguri, and crossing the river Teesta, it would go to Ramshahi, where it would meet another road from Chalsa, and bridging the rivers Jaldhaka and Diana a little below their junction about half a mile from the Ramshahi station, it would go to Gairkata and after serving as many tea gardens as possible on its way, would go to Alipur and from there to Kumargram. The Government accepted this scheme and when the Hon'ble Raja Mahendra Ranjan Ray Chaudhuri made an interpellation in this Council, soon after the opening of the new Council in January 1913, your Excellency's Government was pleased to reply that the scheme was unalterable and that the Government could not accept the idea of the Hon'ble Member to change it. My Lord, the settled facts became unsettled, how, when, and by whom, we, the public, do not know. If that scheme had been pushed through there would have been no necessity for me to press for adding the road from Dhupguri to Nathoahat and from Nathoahat to Gairkata at all. It is beyond the comprehension of a man of my intelligence how a road, which was in the programme, could have been omitted without the consent of the persons who are interested in the affair. It may be argued that it will be to the interests of my fortunate European friends and of the people of the Duars to have the alternative route from Gairkata to Mainaguri *viâ* Dhupguri and it will be a shorter route to Barnes Junction. My Lord, I must reject both those arguments at once. We are going to spend over two lakhs of rupees for bridging the Jaldhaka near Dhupguri. A glance at the map of the district of Jalpaiguri will at once make the thing clear that we are bridging the river just within a mile and a half from the Cooch Behar boundary. My Lord, the Jaldhaka river demarcates the boundary of the Mainaguri and Dhupguri thanas and the Mainaguri and Falakata Tahsil. People going to Dhupguri thana and Falakata Tahsil and those going to the Mainaguri thana and Tahsil office for business will not require the use of the bridge there. Then the people living a mile and a half to the south will not care to go there, as they have absolutely no interest in the district of Jalpaiguri, being residents of an independent Native State. Even if it be of any use to them, my Lord, I will be the first person to oppose the expenditure of public money for the comfort of those people, when that money can be more usefully spent. Then there remains the case of my European friends about whom I am dealing next. My Lord, the Gairkata-Nathoahat road, which I am proposing to be included, if joined with Ramshahi Railway station, and if the river Jaldhaka is bridged at the site proposed by Mr. Finnimore somewhere near Ramshahi and Ramshahi-Mainaguri road is metalled instead of the Jaldhaka-Mainaguri road, it will be of real benefit to my fortunate European friends as well. In the latter event, in case of any breach in the Bengal-Duars Railway Eastern Extension from Chalsa to Madarihat, the Ramshahi station may be very conveniently used by the planters of the Diana-Tursa district. Your Excellency is aware that there was a breach this year in the Bengal-Duars Railway owing to which

[*Mr. Chaplin.*]

Coolie rice was selling in the Diana-Tursa district at the rate of three seers a rupee. Some of the planters who were short of coal suffered great inconvenience. They could not send down their tea for sale in Calcutta, although tea was selling at twelve annas a pound. All these inconveniences would be removed if the said tea district were connected by a bridge and a metalled road with the Ramshahi station, which is only 10 miles from Gairkata. From the point of view of distance between Gairkata and Mainaguri *vid* Ramshahi and Dhupguri respectively, a glance at the map will show that the one through Ramshahi is shorter. On the other hand, in case of any breach on the railway, my Lord, if the present scheme of metalling and bridging the Gairkata-Dhupguri and Mainaguri roads is adhered to, the people of Gairkata will have to come to Barnes Junction for their supplies, which is at a distance of about 26 miles. In these circumstances, my Lord, I believe I have made the case quite clear to your Excellency that the first scheme made by Mr. Finnimore and accepted by the Government and announced to have been so accepted and as unalterable in this Council is a better one from all points of view. Now, when I press for the metalling of the roads between Nathoahat and Gairkata, I am simply demanding that your Excellency's Government should redeem the promise that has been made in this Council hall in 1913.

When I move for the addition of the road from Nathoahat to Dhupguri, my Lord, I simply want a connection with a road which is already in the altered scheme. I believe if the Government adhere to the altered scheme, it should only be fair that we Indian planters should get a connection. My Lord, when I see Gairkata being connected on one side with Dalgaon, on another with Binaguri and thirdly with Banarhat, which is again being connected with Haritalguri and Chunabhati, I can fairly claim a north and south road from Ambari to Nathoahat and connecting the same with the trunk road at Dhupguri to connect the Indian tea gardens with the trunk road. My Lord, when the altered scheme was prepared, and if I was allowed a hearing and if it was not confidentially done, I could have given my views and helped in the framing of the scheme to the advantage of all. My Lord, I have sufficiently dealt with the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems of roads and I trust that I have made it sufficiently clear that my demand is fair, equitable and just. I hope, therefore, that your Excellency's Government will impartially deal justice to all and grant the making of a road that will open out our part of the Duars.

With these few words, my Lord, I commend this resolution to this Council for their kind acceptance."

The Hon'ble MR. CHAPLIN said :—

"My Lord.—My friend the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharraf Husain has raised several points in his speech on which I should like to say a few words. As regards his proposals, I have no doubt that some of the roads he mentions would be very useful additions to the general scheme for the improvement of road communications in the Duars, but it was never claimed that the scheme drawn up by the Public Works Department and District Officers, in consultation with the Duars Planters' Association and other representatives of the planting interests, including the Indian planters, represented a full category of all the roads required. It was intended as a nucleus on which a more detailed and perfect network of roads would in time be built up. I have no recollection of a definite scheme having been changed after acceptance by Government. At the time the scheme was drawn up, the Hon'ble Maulvi Musharraf Husain and other Indian planters had ample opportunities of stating their opinions. Both he and most of them, moreover, are members of the Duars Planters' Association, with as much right as European members to attend the meetings and express their opinions, and they have always been welcome at these meetings. There was no distinction whatsoever between the Indian interests and those of the European-owned gardens, and the Binaguri-Dalgaon and Banarhat roads, which he specially refers to, serve Indian estates just as well as European ones. There were many important roads which it was not possible to include in the first general scheme and those were left to the District Board

programme. Chief among the latter was the Rangamati-Kalchini road which is the only outlet for a district representing a very much larger area of tea than that served by the roads proposed by the Mover of the resolution. I regret, therefore, that he should have made the mistaken, and I think not very fair—suggestion that the Indian planters' interests were relatively neglected. No doubt, in the light of after experience, it is possible to add to, and even improve on, the original programme, and in so far as it is possible to do so without interfering with the other main roads scheduled, I hope Government will consider the Hon'ble Maulvi Musharraf Husain's proposals sympathetically. But at the same time I think that if there are any surplus funds available for the purpose, the extra grants should be impartially distributed where most required, after consultation with the District Officers and the Planters' Association.

As regards the roads mentioned in the resolution before the Council, I understand that the gist of the proposals and their main point is that the bridge over the Jaldhaka river, which the original scheme placed at the point where the direct Dhupguri-Mainaguri road crosses it, should be built instead at a point above 8 miles further up the river at Sakti Ghat, below the confluence of the Dhuria and Jaldhaka rivers and about two miles below Ramshahi; that the roads be constructed from Ambari to Nattoa and thence to Dhupguri, tapping Sakti Ghat on the way; and that the existing road from Gairkata to Nattoa be metalled. These are ambitious proposals and involve the construction of about 30 miles of metalled roads; but I am anxious that something may be done towards meeting the requirements of the locality referred to by my hon'ble friend, and I hope, therefore, that, if Government consider his full proposals too costly for present consideration, they will accede to part of his request, by diverting the alignment of the Dhupguri-Mainaguri road *via* Sakti Ghat and bridging the river there instead of on the direct route, provided the District Officers and the Planters' Association approve this. This revised alignment, while costing comparatively little more than the original scheme, might be made to serve a double purpose, by creating an outlet for the roads east of the Jaldhaka across that river to the Ramshahi station, Bengal-Duars Railway, which is the most important requirement, and the larger question of the other metalled roads from Ambari and Gairkata could be left for future consideration."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said:—

"My Lord,—I cannot but think that it is somewhat unfortunate in several respects that this motion has been brought forward in this House. In the first place, it is unfortunate that any racial question should have been introduced where no racial problem really exists. In the next place, from the point of view of all communities in Jalpaiguri, it seems rather bad policy to draw prominent attention to the fact that Government has already spent eight lakhs of rupees and hopes, provided that funds are available, to spend another 12 or 16 lakhs of rupees upon roads in Jalpaiguri at a time when so many urgent claims are before the country, and when so many other district boards and municipalities are hungering for funds. A third reason why it is unfortunate that this question has been brought up here is that most members of the Council feel themselves utterly unable to arrive at any decision as to the merits of the question. If we had been discussing, let us say, roads from Baghdad to Ctesiphon or from Premszyl to Lemberg, or from Czernowitz to Chartorysk, and other places with which we are all familiar, I think the House might have been able to arrive at some conclusion; but most of the members sitting here to-day could not, I fear, make an affidavit as to the relative position of Mainaguri and Dhupguri. We are not the District Board of Jalpaiguri, nor are we the Planters' Association, and I feel certain that most members are already hopelessly fogged. It would have been better that this motion should have been brought forward in the first instance at a meeting of the Planters' Association in Jalpaiguri, where there are both European and Indian members. The Association could have discussed the matter thoroughly and then made a

representation to the Deputy Commissioner, and through him to the Commissioner and to Government. The matter would have been dealt with in a businesslike way.

The outline of the history of this case is this. From the time of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government proposals were on foot that if funds could be found, something should be done for the roads in the Duars. At that time the cess income of the District Board was something in the neighbourhood of Rs. 80,000, a comparatively small income for a very large district. Since then, as the House is aware, Government have presented to the District Board the entire revenue of the Public Works cess and, moreover, in connection with the recent settlement operations in Jalpaiguri, the cess demand has been revised, and I think I am not wrong in saying that instead of a cess income of Rs. 80,000, the District Board has now a cess income of something in the neighbourhood of two lakhs. This only emphasises what I have just said, that the representatives of Jalpaiguri should not have been so precipitate in drawing public attention to the subsidy which they have been receiving, and are going to receive, from Government. Anyhow, Government decided three years ago that, in the circumstances then existing, it was only reasonable that a Government grant should be made towards the improvement of roads in Jalpaiguri. A meeting was held at which Mr. Finnimore presided. Representaive Europeans and Indians were present, and a rough programme was drawn up. This meeting took place in December 1912 and the proceedings of the meeting were in due course laid before Government; but this rough scheme drawn up in 1912 never received the formal approval of Government. As is the manner of Government we received the proposal and we entered on a correspondence. It is entirely a misapprehension on the part of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur when he asserts that in January 1913 a pledge was given in this House to the effect that the rough scheme drawn up in December 1912 was unalterable and irrevocable. Before I came to this meeting I asked the Khan Bahadur to give me a reference to this alleged pledge. He answered that he was relying on his memory and that he could not refer me to the exact words used by Government when making this pledge. I had hoped that after this conversation my friend would have refrained from accusing Government of a breach of faith. He has persisted, however, in making this serious charge. Well, I have before me the exact question which was put by the Hon'ble Raja of Kakina and the exact reply which was given by Government. The Raja asked, 'Will Government be pleased to state what action is under contemplation or likely to be taken to improve the feeder road communications in the Duars and Jalpaiguri districts, the present unsatisfactory state of which is seriously felt by the planting community and the Bengal Duars Railway as well as by the public, and the insufficiency of which is seriously checking the development of the tea trade particularly, and others generally?' The answer was as follows: 'The question of the improvement of the road communications in the Duars is receiving the full consideration of Government and a conference was held on 20th December, 1912, at Jalpaiguri, at which the Chief Engineer of the Roads and Buildings Branch, the local Civil and Public Works officers, and the following non-officials were present: Mr. A. W. C. Chaplin, Chairman, Duars Planters' Association, (2) Rai Kalipada Banerji Bahadur, Vice-Chairman, District Board of Jalpaiguri, and (3) Maulvi Musharraf Husain. It was resolved at that conference that a good east and west road was required from Kumargram to Tetuliya *viâ* Alipur, Falakata, Dhupguri, Gairkata, Ramshahi, Mainaguri and Jalpaiguri and a north and south road from Ramshahi to Matelli, and that if these roads are constructed and maintained by Government, the District Board would maintain all the other roads. The District Board are preparing a scheme for the improvement of these roads and will submit it to Government with an application for a loan to carry out the scheme. Government are awaiting receipt of this scheme. 'As regards the two roads proposed to be constructed east to west and north to south, the Superintending Engineer of the Northern Circle has

[*Mr. Beatson Bell.*]

already been asked to report the rough cost of metalling and bridging them, and the receipt of the information is awaited. On receipt of the District Board scheme and the information from the Superintending Engineer, further action will be taken as far as funds will permit. For the present, a provision of two lakhs of rupees has been set aside for improvement to the Duars roads in the Public Works Department budget for next year. It is not proposed to reconstruct any old Military road.'

I challenge my friend the Khan Bahadur to say that there is anything in this amounting to a pledge that the rough scheme which was drawn up in December 1912 was accepted by Government as an irrevocable scheme. On the contrary, having received that scheme we asked for the opinion of the District Board and the opinion of the Superintending Engineer. In due course these opinions were received, and we received a letter from Mr. French, the Commissioner of the Division, on the 1st March 1913.

I shall read this letter to the House :—

'With reference to your telegram, dated the 26th February, on the subject of the Jalpaiguri District Board scheme for Duars roads, I have the honour to forward herewith a note drawn up by the Deputy Commissioner, Jalpaiguri, with two illustrative sketch maps.

'I have discussed the scheme with Mr. Milligan. It differs very materially from that put forward at the conference held at Jalpaiguri on the 20th December, but it appears to me to be preferable. Jalpaiguri and Alipur are the two main outlets for the trade of the Duars, and I think that the main road systems should converge on those points.

'It will be noticed that the roads which it is proposed should be made provincial are confined to the Western Duars. This tract has special claims to liberal treatment at the hands of Government. It is a submontane tract and is intersected by numerous rivers from the hills which make it specially difficult and costly to maintain communications throughout the year. At the same time it is even more essential for the tea industry that the roads should be kept open during the rainy season than in the cold weather. The whole tract is Government property which is becoming year by year more valuable and which is rapidly developing. What is needed more than anything at the present time to assist in this development is improvement of communications.'

Mr French forwarded a note from Mr. Milligan in which the revised scheme was discussed in detail and a list of 19 roads was drawn up. I need not read the whole of Mr. Milligan's note, but I shall be glad to show it to the Khan Bahadur if he so desires. I will only quote the opening paragraph :—

'I have had a full and final discussion of this question with the Hon'ble Mr. Chaplin, and other representative planters, and am now in a position to lay before Government in a complete form the suggestions which the district has to make as to the most useful method of applying the funds which may be allotted to road construction in Jalpaiguri district.'

It was on this note of Mr. Milligan and this letter of Mr. French that the final scheme was drawn up and ultimately sanctioned; the letter of sanction was issued in January, 1914. From that time to this there has been no change whatever in the programme, and I think it would be most unfortunate if we sitting here, with our admittedly imperfect knowledge of the district, were to begin pulling to pieces a scheme which was arrived at after so much discussion and was sent up to Government over the name of Mr. Milligan, whose knowledge of the district is absolutely unrivalled and who is an intimate friend of everyone in the district, European and Indian alike. On any matter concerning Jalpaiguri most people would be content to be wrong in company with Mr. Miligan. Anyhow, Mr. Milligan's scheme has held the field from March 1913 till to-day. So late as the last Budget debate in April, 1915, the

[*Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharaff Husain.*]

Khan Bahadur spoke on the subject of this scheme of roads, and, strange as it may seem, at that time he did not breathe a word regarding the roads which he now puts forward as essential, namely, the three roads which branch out, like Mahadeo's trident, from Nathoahat to Ambarihat, to Gairkatahat and to Dhupguri. When my friend the Khan Bahadur spoke on this very subject in April last, what he said was this :—

'I beg to thank your Excellency's Government heartily for expending a good amount for the improvement of the Duars roads. I have been impressing upon your Excellency's Government for the last two years that the two systems of roads—one leading to Jalpaiguri and the other to Alipur—should be linked together for the improvement of inter-district communication. I personally explained this to the Hon'ble Mr. Green and pointed out to him that it was very easy to do so by extending the Dalgaon-Lankapara road up to the edge of the river Tursha and the Rajabhatkhawa-Joygaon road to the other bank of the river and keeping a good ferry across the river till the Public Works Department would think it opportune for bridging it. The cost in doing so will, I believe, be very small indeed, and I hope the Government would kindly accept this suggestion.'

There is not a word about the roads on the trident. I must make it quite clear that, if these three roads are taken up by Government, it can only be done by removing some other roads from Mr. Milligan's scheme. Obviously, this proposal cannot be considered by Government except on a strong representation from the local bodies which are immediately concerned. Therefore while Government have every sympathy with the Khan Bahadur's desire to have these three roads put in good order, I would ask him not to press the motion here, but to bring it up before the District Board and the Planters' Association, in both of which bodies he is an influential member.

With these few words I would ask the Khan Bahadur not to press his motion."

The Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARAFF HUSAIN said :—

"My Lord,—After what has been said by our respected friend the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell, I think it my duty to withdraw my motion for the present ; but before doing so, I must say a few words in reply to some of the remarks that he has made in his speech, and I have also to reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Chaplin regarding some of the remarks that he has made. Mr. Chaplin first of all has pointed out that there are other roads more important than those which I have mentioned which ought to get greater prominence. He mentioned the Rangamati-Khalchini road. If I remember right, this road is being metalled every year by two miles and Mr. Chaplin probably wants to get it finished soon and that is the reason why he brings that road into prominence. So far as that road is concerned, it is receiving proper attention from the District Board. The roads for which I plead get very little help from the District Board. I think for a length of 13 miles we do not get more than Rs. 300 for their maintenance ; on the other hand, my friend is getting Rs. 15,000 annually for this Rangamati-Khalchini road, which is also a distance of 13 miles. This, I think, meets the remarks made by Mr. Chaplin.

In reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell's remarks about the introduction of racial questions in such a matter, I must say that I would have been the last person to introduce it if Mr. Chaplin were present at Jalpaiguri as President of the Duars Planters' Association as we worked with him most amicably for a long time. Unfortunately Mr. Chaplin is an absentee member now, hence this question has arisen. We are all very grateful to Mr. Chaplin for his impartial attitude to us.

So far as the question of a pledge is concerned, I do not know what my Hon'ble friend Mr. Beatson Bell means by it. The reply the Hon'ble Member has read to us at least led us to believe that the scheme that was drawn up by Mr. Finnimore was adopted by Government. In that scheme and in the reply your Lordship will find that

[*Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharaff Husain.*]

there is a reference to the Ramshahi-Gairkata road, but that has been omitted from the list. If that road had been looked after by the Public Works Department, there would have been no necessity to move a resolution here at all. When Mr. French sent a letter to this Government he himself admitted that the scheme that had been submitted subsequently by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Milligan, materially differed from the one that was originally made. This, my Lord, clearly shows that Mr. French also understood that there was a difference. The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell made a reference to my speech at the last budget and said that I did not make any mention of these roads in my speech. I do not, however, find that there is anything contradictory in ideas. What Government are doing for the other roads in the Duars I have nothing to say. What I want to press for is that Government should consider our proposals as well. However, as my hon'ble friend Mr. Beatson Bell says that this proposal should come through the District Officer and the Divisional Commissioner, with your Excellency's permission I beg to withdraw my resolution."

The Resolution was then by leave of the President withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council was then adjourned to Monday, the 6th March, 1916, at 11 A.M

A. M. HUTCHISON.

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal and
Secy. to the Bengal Legislative Council (Offg.).

CALCUTTA ;

The 14th January, 1916.

B. S. Press—25-1-1916—3001J—350—C. A. P.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in Government House on Monday, the 6th March, 1916, at 11 A.M.

Present :

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., *Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I., *Vice-President.*

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA.

The Hon'ble MR. N. D. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble COL. W. R. EDWARDS, C.B., C.M.G.

The Hon'ble MR. F. J. MONAHAN.

The Hon'ble MR. J. LANG.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. K. C. DE, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. DONALD.

The Hon'ble MR. L. BIRLEY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble MR. C. H. BOMPAS.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNELL.

The Hon'ble MR. C. F. PAYNE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. B. H. PANTON.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MURHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. H. J. HILARY.

The Hon'ble SIR SATYENDRA PRASANNA SINHA, KT.

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR.

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI.

The Hon'ble SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

The Hon'ble RAJA SHOSHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHAUDHURI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble BABU RAMTARAN BANERJI.

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR

The Hon'ble MR. E. H. BRAY.

The Hon'ble MR. W. T. GRICE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. MARTIN.

The Hon'ble MR. A. W. C. CHAPLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF.

The Hon'ble MAULVI MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSSAIN.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur.

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAI PRASANNA KUMAR RAY BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble CHAUDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN.

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY.

Mr. Martin ; Nawab Saiyid H. H. Chaudhuri ; Mr. Birley.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 1.

OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. MARTIN made an oath or affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 2.

STARRED QUESTIONS

By the Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID HOSSAM HAIDER CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR :—

* 1. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that large numbers of cattle have perished by flood during the year 1915, and that in the flooded districts the cultivators are finding it difficult to till the soil owing to a scarcity of cattle? D catt

(*b*) If so, are the Government taking any action with a view to assist the cultivators in this matter?

The Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY replied :—

(*a*) Government are aware that the floods of 1915 were attended by the loss of cattle particularly in the Kishoreganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district. Complaints have been made to the local officers that for want of cattle raiyats in parts of Kishoreganj subdivision had difficulty in cultivating their land.

(*b*) The local officers are fully aware of the importance of affording facilities for purchasing cattle where such loss has occurred: the Commissioner of Dacca visited the affected area in Kishoreganj subdivision in January and allotted Rs. 45,000 for loans which are intended principally for the purchase of cattle and seed.

By the Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID HOSSAM HAIDER CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR :—

* 2. (*a*) Is it a fact that no grant is given by a co-operative credit bank unless fifteen persons apply in a body for the grant? L oper bank

(*b*) Is it also a fact that each of these persons is held severally liable for the whole loan?

(*c*) If the answers to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to say whether they are considering the desirability of modifying the conditions under which these loans are granted?

The Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY replied :—

(*a*) No. The by-laws of Co-operative Credit Societies make provision for sureties: in some cases one surety is required and in no case are more than three sureties required.

(*b*) Sureties are jointly and severally liable for the loans for which they give security.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Nawab Saiyid H. H. Chaudhuri ; Mr. De ; Maharaja Ranajit Sinha.

By the Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID HOSSAM HAIDER CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR :—

Affiliation of high English schools in mufassal districts.

* 3. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of high English schools in mufassal districts in the Presidency of Bengal which have not yet been affiliated ?

(*b*) Has any case occurred where a non-affiliated institution has failed to meet the requirements of the University through want of funds ?

(*c*) If so, are the Government considering the advisability of helping such institutions with supplementary grants ?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"(*a*) There are 99 such institutions in mufassal districts in the Presidency of Bengal which have not been affiliated.

(*b*) Want of funds has in certain cases been put forward as a reason for not meeting the requirements of the University.

(*c*) Government consider that the comparatively small amount of money which is available for grants-in-aid is better spent as a general rule on High English Schools which have already been recognised by the University than on those which have been unable to secure such recognition."

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur :—

Plague in Birbhum

* 4. (*a*) Are the Government aware that there have been several seizures and deaths from plague at Sainthia in the district of Birbhum ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps they are taking to prevent the disease from spreading to the neighbouring villages and railway stations ?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"(*a*) An outbreak of plague occurred at Sainthia in the district of Birbhum in January, 1916. There were 26 seizures and 19 deaths from plague up to the 5th February. There were no cases after this date till the 26th February, when 1 seizure was reported, which ended fatally.

(*b*) Prompt action was taken by the local authorities with the co-operation of local gentlemen for disinfection and for the removal of rats. A medical officer with special experience was deputed, and every facility given for inoculation. The bi-weekly *hât* at Sainthia was suspended, and arrangements made to hold the *hât* in an open space outside the village. Precautions were taken by the East Indian Railway with regard to the storing of grain."

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur :—

Malaria in Birbhum.

* 5. (*a*) Is it a fact that Suri and other adjacent villages in Birbhum, formerly one of the healthiest districts in Bengal, have recently become malarious ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps they are taking for combating malaria in those villages ?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"(*a*) The town of Suri and its neighbourhood appear to have been relatively free from malaria until the year 1872 or 1873. Since that date the disease has been prevalent in this locality with frequent variations in its force and the extent of the area affected.

(*b*) Special medical officers have been deputed to the district of Birbhum for anti-malarial work during the last two years. During the current financial year a special grant of Rs. 25,000 has been made to the Birbhum District Board for anti-malarial measures, and of Rs. 500 to the Suri Municipality for the free distribution of quinine."

Maharaja Ranajit Sinha: Mr. De: Babu U. L. Ray: Mr. Green.

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur :—

Waterworks Scheme for Suri.

* 6. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Waterworks Scheme for the Suri Municipality has been submitted to and approved by the Government?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state when the work in connection with the scheme is likely to be commenced?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"(*a*) The Waterworks Scheme of the Suri Municipality has received the administrative approval of Government.

(*b*) It is not yet known when funds will be available to enable the work to be commenced."

By the Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY :—

The Padma river.

* 7. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there has been any variation in the depth of the water of the river Padma in recent years, and, if so, what is the highest figure obtainable indicating the depth?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the course of the river Padma has been diverted through other smaller channels since the construction of the Hardinge Bridge and that while the smaller channels are widening, the main river is silting up?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any inquiries are in contemplation with a view to ascertain whether the river-borne traffic and the passenger steamer communication are being or are likely to be affected by the irregular course of the Padma river?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

"(*a*) The question is somewhat indefinite but it is presumed that the Hon'ble Member refers to the flood levels of the river Padma; the high flood levels at Rampore Boalia and Goalundo are given in the subjoined schedule for the past 10 years (Statements A and B), which show no abnormal fluctuations.

(*b*) During the past few years the river Gorai has become larger and the volume of water flowing into that river from the Padma has increased. It has not, however, been found that in consequence thereof the main river has silted up.

(*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to (*b*) above. It is not the intention of Government to prosecute any inquiries on this subject."

Statement A referred to by the HON'BLE MR. GREEN *in his Answer to Question No. 7 (starred) asked by the* HON'BLE BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 6th March, 1916.*

Highest reading of the river *Ganges at Rampur-Boalia* for each of the ten years ending *1915*.

Height over zero of gauge.

	1906	...	26·30 on 25th August.
	1907	...	22·05 on 26th August.
	1908	...	23·45 on 10th September.
	1909	...	22·65 on 8th September.
	1910	...	24·60 on 21st—24th August.
	1911	...	24·50 on 20th September.
	1912	...	21·90 on 25th August.
Zero of gauge = 42·00.	1913	...	22·50 on 16th August.
	1914	...	23·70 on 1st and 2nd September.
	1915	...	24·00 on 8th and 9th September, 1915.

Highest reading recorded is 69·25 on 26th August, 1879.

Statement B referred to by the HON'BLE MR. GREEN *in his Answer to Question No. 7 (starred) asked by the* HON'BLE BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 6th March, 1916.*

Highest gauge-readings of the river *Ganges at Goalundo* for each of the ten years ending 1915.

		Height over zero of gauge.
	1906 ...	25·75 on 28th August.
	1907 ...	23·08 on 14th—15th August.
	1908 ...	22·83 on 12th September.
	1909 ...	22·17 on 20th—23rd August.
	1910 ...	24·33 on 7th August.
	1911 ...	23·17 on 29th August.
Zero of gauge is at mean sea-level.	1912 ...	22·33 on 28th—30th August.
	1913	22·33 on 30th June. 21·00 on 18th July.
	1914 ...	23·00 on 4th and 5th September.
	1915 ...	25·75 on 14th September.

Highest recorded reading 25·75 on 28th August, 1906, and 14th September, 1915.

By the Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY :—

Strengthening of the Gumti embankments.

* 8. Will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken or is being taken with a view to strengthen the Gumti embankments in the Tipperadistrict in order to avoid the recurrence of calamities similar to those experienced during the last rains?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

"The Gumti embankments lying within the zamindari of the Raja of Hill Tippera have been examined by the Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, who has reported on the repairs which are necessary. The Collector of the district of Tippera has been requested to see that the necessary repairs are carried out by the Raj authorities in due course before the flood season of the next year. The general question of the maintenance of these embankments has been receiving the attention of Government, and it is hoped that a final decision in this matter will soon be arrived at."

By the Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY :—

Sale notices of Civil Courts.

* 9. (*a*) Are the Government aware that sale notices of the Civil Courts, in many districts of Bengal, are now published in local newspapers under the orders of the Courts and that the payment of the costs of such publication has to be met by the decree-holders?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that when objections are raised on the point of want of due publicity, the fact of the publication of such notices in the newspapers is not regarded as sufficient?

(*c*) Are the Government also aware that in several such cases the sales are eventually set aside upon that objection?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate making uniform rules for all districts under which the compulsory publication of sale notices in newspapers may be held to meet the requirements of the law?

Rai R. C. Pal Bahadur; Mr. Kerr; Mr. De; Mr. Chakravarti.

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

"(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) The matter is regulated by Order XXI, rule 67 (*2*), in the First Schedule of the Code of Civil Procedure and by rules made by the High Court under the authority vested in them by section 122 of the Code. Government are therefore unable to take the action suggested."

By the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR :—

Proposed sub division in Pabna.

* 10. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the claims of Bhanguria as being the most convenient site for the proposed subdivision which is to be created in the Pabna district?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Bhanguria is 21 miles from the sadar subdivision of Pabna, 23 miles from Sirajganj, the only existing subdivision, and 22 miles from the borders of the Rajshahi Division?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that Bera, Ullapara and Shahzadpur are all much nearer to Sirajganj than Bhanguria?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received a representation from the people of Bhanguria praying that Bhanguria be selected for the site, and, if so, what decision (if any) has been arrived at on that representation?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

"(*a*) and (*d*) Government have recently received two petitions asking that Bhanguria should be selected as the headquarters of the new subdivision. These petitions have been referred to the local officers for report. No proposal to make Bhanguria the headquarters of a subdivision has been received from any other quarter.

(*b*) From the map, it would appear that by road Bhanguria is about 27 miles from Pabna and 28 miles from Sirajganj. It is about 24 miles in a direct line from the eastern border of the Rajshahi Division.

(*c*) It is a fact that Ullapara and Shahzadpur are nearer to Sirajganj than is Bhanguria; but Bera is further from Sirajganj than Bhanguria."

By the Hon'ble MR. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI :—

Magrahât drainage scheme.

* 11. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how the execution of the Magrahât drainage scheme has affected—

(*i*) the health of the locality; and

(*ii*) the agricultural prospects therein?

(*b*) whether any other scheme has either been undertaken or is under contemplation in pursuance of the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, 1895 (Bengal Act VIII of 1895)?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"(*a*) The Magrahât Drainage Scheme has only recently been brought to completion; and the final report has not yet been received by Government. The greater part of the scheme was completed in the year 1909, including the Diamond Harbour sluice which was opened in June of that year. A comparison of the death-rates from fever and other causes and of attendance at dispensaries, in various parts of the Diamond Harbour subdivision, before and after the opening of the sluice, leaves no doubt that a marked relief from fever was at once effected over a wide area.

Mr. Chakravarti; Mr. De; Babu S. N. Banerji; Mr. Kerr.

The whole of the area drained by the Magrahât Scheme, about 295 square miles, is now under cultivation, and the sluices are reported to work well for the purpose both of irrigation and drainage. The area of swamp and land which produced no crop before is estimated to have been about 100 square miles. On the opening of the Diamond Harbour sluice this area produced in the same agricultural year a crop valued at Rs. 38,40,000, or approximately twice the whole cost of the scheme.

(*b*) The scheme for the drainage of the Araoanch basin, forwarded by the District Board of the 24-Parganas, is at present under the consideration of Government."

By the Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI :—

Mortality due to malarial causes.

* 12. Will the Government be pleased to state the percentage of mortality due, either directly or indirectly, to malarial causes out of the total shown under the heading "Fever" in the reports of the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal in the years 1913 and 1914?

The Hon'ble Mr. DE replied :—

"Separate statistics for malarial fever are not available, the mortality for malarial fever being included in the statistics shown under the heading 'Fever.'"

By the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI :—

* 13. (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Notification, set forth in the margin, which was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 16th February, 1916, has created a general feeling of uneasiness among the people of Calcutta and its neighbourhood?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement explaining the situation and the real purport which has necessitated the issue of this Notification?

"*No. 163.*—In pursuance of Rule 2 (*iii*) of the Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules, 1915, published with the Notification of the Government of India in the Legislative Department, No. 86, dated the 9th December, 1915, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to declare that the areas defined in the schedule hereto annexed shall be defended harbours for the purpose of the said rules.

Defended Harbour.	Area
Calcutta	

The area comprised within the following boundaries :—

On the east—The right bank of the rivers Ramangal and Ichchhamati from the sea till the northern boundary is reached.

On the north—An east and west line running through Barrackpore Railway Station.

On the west—A north and south line running through Bagnan Station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

On the south—The limit of territorial waters in the Bay of Bengal.

With an additional portion to the north of the above northern boundary consisting of a strip two miles in width from each bank of the river Hooghly from the northern boundary to a point 2 miles north of the Naihati bridge over the Hooghly river."

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR replied :—

"A copy of the Communiqué which has been issued on the subject is laid on the table.

Communiqué referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr *to Question No. 13 (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji *at the Council Meeting of the 6th March 1916.*

With reference to the definition of 'Defended Harbour of Calcutta,' published with the Army Department Notification No. 163, dated 11th February, 1916, which has excited a certain amount of comment in the Press, it will be observed that it is merely consistent with similar action, taken in respect of Aden, Karachi, Bombay, Madras, Rangoon and Port Blair. Under the Defence of India Rules, published with the Notification No. 86, dated 9th December, 1915 'defended harbour' means any area declared by notification to be such for the purpose of those Rules. The only rule, so far framed with special reference to a defended harbour, is rule 19 which prohibits the

Supplementary Question; Babu S. N. Banerji; Mr. Kerr; Raja M. R. Ray Chaudhuri.

photographing of naval and military works or dock and harbour works ; and since works of military importance may lie within some distance of the harbour proper in its restricted sense, it is necessary that the definition of a defended harbour should be widely drawn. The rule and definition are merely matters of ordinary military precaution, consequent upon the existence of a state of war.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked the following supplementary question :—

Are the Government considering the desirability of giving a public assurance that there is really no cause for anxiety in the public mind ? "

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

" The matter is entirely in the hands of the Government of India. The Local Government have no knowledge that any further action is contemplated."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

Industrial Co-operative Societies, Agricultural Loans etc.

1. Will the Government be pleased to state what steps (if any) have been taken to give effect to the Resolutions on Industrial Co-operative Societies and Loans, Agricultural and Dairy Farms and Fruit Culture, moved by me and accepted with slight modifications by Government at the meeting of this Council held on the 2nd March, 1915 ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY was laid on the table :—

FIRST PART OF QUESTION.

" The question relates to separate resolutions which were moved on March 2nd, 1915, by the Hon'ble Member and were accepted. The first of these resolutions was as follows :—' This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that steps be taken for the establishment, on a sound financial basis, of industrial Co-operative Societies in the various districts of the Presidency.'

The steps which have been taken to give effect to this Resolution are as follows :—

(*1*) *Weavers' Societies.*—An Inspector of Weaving Societies was appointed in October 1915. There are now 17 Weavers' Societies in the districts of Faridpur, Midnapore, Dacca, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Birbhum and Pabna as compared with 11 in existence in March 1915. Weavers' Societies purchase yarn for distribution amongst members and assist the members in the disposal of finished products.

(*2*) A Co-operative Sugar Factory which was opened in Faridpur district in 1914 was worked with success in the year 1915.

(*3*) *Fishermen's Societies.*—The Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the Deputy Director of Fisheries have investigated the prospects of Co-operative Societies of fishermen and four Fishermen's Societies have been started.

(*4*) A society of shoemakers has recently been started in Rampurhat and a society of carpenters and banglemakers in the subdivision of Jangipur. In Pabna a society of oilmen has been organized.

SECOND PART OF QUESTION.

This question relates to the following portion of another resolution moved by the Hon'ble Member and accepted by Government, *viz.*:—' This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that further steps be taken for encouraging the educated youths of this Presidency to take up agricultural farming, dairy farming, fruit farming and fruit preserving as their profession in life.'

The steps which have been taken to give effect to this resolution are as follows:—

(*1*) *Agricultural farming.*—A scheme for the establishment of classes at the Dacca Farm for instruction in agriculture for the sons of zamindars and others was circulated for the opinion of the leading Associations: the scheme did not receive much support except from the East Bengal Landholders' Association. The cost of the scheme is being worked out in detail, but it is unlikely that funds will be available under present financial conditions.

(*2*) *Dairy farming.*—At the Rangpur Cattle Farm a record is kept of the milk-yields of various kinds of indigenous cows with a view to establishing the best type. Besides aiming at improving the breed of indigenous cattle, the farm seeks to demonstrate the possibilities of mixed farming and to prove to educated young men that dairy farming can be conducted at a profit.

(*3*) *Fruit farming and fruit preserving.*—The Agricultural Department is now engaged on a survey of local fruits. It is hoped to follow up the survey by the establishment of orchards at Agricultural stations. Educated young men will then have an object lesson which they can follow."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI:—

Improvement of cattle and provision of pasture lands.

II. Will the Government be pleased to state what measures are being taken for the improvement of cattle and for the provision of pasture lands in each district of the Presidency?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY was laid on the table:—

"The following measures are being taken by Government for the improvement of cattle:—

(*1*) At the Rangpur Farm a herd of cattle is kept and attempts are being made to select the best type for the Province.

(*2*) Government maintain 36 stud bulls and local bodies maintain 28.

(*3*) Government have instructed their local officers to reserve grazing lands in Government estates. It is hoped that private landlords will follow this example. No other feasible proposal, apart from legislation, has yet been suggested."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI:—

Labour in Darjeeling and the Duars.

III. Will the Government be pleased to state what protection the Planting Communities in the Darjeeling and Duars districts have against the enticement of their garden labour units, by unscrupulous labour recruiters?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table:—

"Government have had no complaints regarding the enticement of garden labour units by unscrupulous labour recruiters in the Duars and Darjeeling districts for employment in other labour districts. Enticement from one garden to another in the Duars is provided for by the Duars Labour Rules. Recruitment for Assam labour districts from the Duars and Darjeeling districts is regulated by the provisions of Act VI of 1901."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI:—

Relations between zamindars and tenants.

IV. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the general relations between the important zamindari estates and their tenantry in the districts of the Presidency are on the whole satisfactory?

(*b*) If the answer to the above question cannot be given in the affirmative in respect of all the districts, will the Government mention the districts where relations generally have been or are so unsatisfactory as to have necessitated interference by Government?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY was laid on the table:—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the paragraphs on this subject which appear in the annual reports of the Board of Revenue upon the Land Revenue Administration of the Province."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

V. Will the Government be pleased to state what special efforts, if any, are being made to reduce the shortage in the number of trained and efficient teachers for primary and secondary institutions in the Presidency?

Teachers for primary and secondary institutions.

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DE was laid on the table :—

"The David Hare Training College in Calcutta trains about 30 teachers annually. A scheme for the development of this College has already been considered by Government, involving a capital expenditure of Rs. 8,00,000 and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 23,000. Land has been acquired at Ballygunge for the construction of a suitable building at a cost of 2½ lakhs and the administrative approval of Government has been accorded to the building project at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,68,000. The latter will be taken up as soon as funds are available.

During the year 1914-15, 47 students were under training in the Dacca Training College. The accommodation in the College has recently been increased from 55 to 60. Proposals for the reorganisation of the College are now under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction and will shortly be submitted to Government. The transfer of this institution to new and enlarged buildings within the Dacca University area forms part of the scheme for that University and will be carried out with it.

The Training classes at Bhowanipur under the management of the London Missionary Society are now turning out 15 students every year. Proposals for the reorganisation of the classes are under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction.

The six Normal Schools train teachers for Middle Schools or the middle classes of High Schools and for Guru-Training Schools. These training institutions give an annual outturn of from 100 to 140 trained teachers. The reorganisation of these schools with a view to increase the number of trained teachers for Middle Schools is also engaging the attention of the Director of Public Instruction.

The total number of Guru-Training Schools in the Presidency is 116. Proposals for the development of these schools on improved lines have been considered by Government, involving a capital expenditure of Rs. 11,00,000 and a recurring expenditure on staff, including menial establishment and stipends, of Rs. 6,04,800. The monthly stipends in these schools have been raised from Rs. 6 to Rs. 10.

These schemes when brought into operation will, it is hoped, lead to a substantial increase in the annual return of trained teachers, while an improvement in the quality of the training is also confidently expected."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

VI. Will the Government be pleased to state the reason why the percentage of outlay on public works in Kurseong was as low as 1·5 in 1913-14?

Low percentage of outlay on Public Works in Kurseong.

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DE was laid on the table :—

"The percentage of outlay on Public Works in Kurseong Municipality was only 1·5 in 1913-14 because all the roads, with the exception of three small ones, are maintained by the Public Works Department."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

VII. Will the Government be pleased to state what support, encouragement and facilities are being given to new and growing Indian manufactories of leather, metal, cotton and glass goods, and lay on the table a list of such factories in the Presidency with a brief account of their financial and commercial position and the class, quality and approximate quantity of goods produced yearly by each?

Encouragement of Indian manufactories.

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to Mr. Swan's Report on the Industrial Development of Bengal. The only changes of note that have taken place since the publication of that report are the failure of the glass factory at Sodepore, the establishment of a new tannery at Berhampore, and the opening of a new factory at Kidderpore for the manufacture of galvanised iron articles, chiefly buckets. The tannery at Berhampore has only recently been started. Owing to the war it has experienced difficulty in obtaining certain materials necessary for its manufactures, and Government are giving every assistance possible to secure these materials. The galvanising works at Kidderpore produce daily about 80 dozen buckets, and they are assisted largely by Government orders. As to the financial position of these Companies, as well as of those mentioned in Mr. Swan's report, the Hon'ble Member may obtain information from the proprietors, or, in the case of Joint Stock Companies, by inspection of the balance sheets filed in the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, on payment of the usual fee of Re. 1 for each inspection."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

Purchase by Government of indigenous goods.

VIII. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they buy any manufactured goods for their own requirements from any indigenous factory, and, if so, the nature and quantity of such goods?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"Yes; the Government of Bengal purchase for their own requirements manufactured goods from indigenous factories. These goods include building materials, engineering plant, hardware, wire, leather, paints and colours, oils, furniture, canvas, cotton and woollen goods, chemicals, drugs and medicines, scientific instruments, paper, stationery, printing materials, earthenware, glass and glassware, and other goods of a miscellaneous character. Details as to the quantities purchased are not readily available, but the value of such goods purchased during the financial year 1914-15 was Rs. 3,17,838."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

Number of paper-making factories in the Presidency.

IX. Will the Government be pleased to state the number of paper-making factories in the Presidency, their present general condition and the average production in each of these factories and also the support (if any) which they receive from Government in the form of purchases?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"There are three paper-making factories in Bengal. Two belong to the Titaghur Paper Mills Company and produce about 19,000 tons of paper *per annum*, of which Government purchase about 6,000 tons. The third belongs to the Bengal Paper Mills Company. Its annual outturn is about 6,600 tons, of which Government purchase 3,000 tons. The condition of the factories is set out in the balance sheets of the Companies, which may be inspected in the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies on payment of the usual fee of Re. 1 for each inspection."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

Paper-making industry and the starting of factories.

X. Will the Government be pleased to state the districts suitable for the establishment of the paper industry and what facilities and encouragement they are prepared to give to those who may wish to start new factories?

Mr. Donald; Raja M. R. Ray Chaudhuri; Mr. De.

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell at the Dacca meeting of this Council on the 26th July, 1915. The suitability of a particular district for the establishment of the paper industry depends on several considerations, including the supply of raw material, the supply of labour, and the accessibility to markets. Until these considerations have been examined in detail, the Governor in Council is not in a position to say which districts are most suitable, or to state what facilities or encouragement Government may extend to new ventures. The question will be examined by the Director of Industries as soon as this officer is appointed."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

Mortality in Rajshahi.

XI. Will the Government be pleased to state the result of the examination of figures of mortality in the Rajshahi district which has been conducted by five Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Nator thana, for the purpose of defining the special features of mortality from true malarial infection as distinguished from deaths resulting from fevers due to other causes ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DE was laid on the table :—

"A statement giving the information required is laid on the table."

Statement referred to by the HON'BLE MR. DE *in his Answer to Question No. XI (unstarred asked by the* HON'BLE RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI *at the Council Meeting of the 6th March, 1916.*

[Monthly statement of deaths according to disease in Nator thana.]

Disease.	March 1912.	April 1912.	May 1912.	June 1912.	July 1912.	August 1912.	September 1912.	October 1912.	November 1912.	December 1912.	January 1913.	February 1913	Total. Male.	Total. Female.	Total. Total.	Percentage of mortality according to disease to total mortality of 12 months
Cholera	12	114	52	...	...	...	...	...	47	17	5	2	186	127	249	12·43
Chicken-pox	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	·10
Measles	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	1	·05
Malaria—																
Remittent fever ...	5	6	11	6	4	...	5	3	10	9	4	3	32	34	66	3·26
Intermittent fever ...	77	79	49	43	51	54	56	77	102	96	71	28	426	360	784	39·21
Splean	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		..	2	...	...	2	..	2	·10
Dysentery	1	3	3	4	2	2	3	2	9	2	6	1	23	16	38	1·89
Diarrhœa	4	16	10	4	3	5	6	9	11	9	12	1	51	39	90	4·46
Enteric fever	...	7	13	1	2	1	...	3	5	4	2	5	19	21	40	1·98
Epidemic Dropsy ...	3	.	...	..	2	.	.	..	1	..		..	5	1	6	·29
Other fevers	5	7	2	3	1	1	2	2	10	11	4	3	14	37	51	2·53
Tubercle	9	5	6	5	6	3	7	4	10	3	4	3	36	29	65	3·21
Pneumonia	23	24	15	19	11	14	18	24	18	10	22	19	124	102	226	11·20
Other respiratory diseases	2	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	..	1	1	...	5	4	9	·45
Anæmia	...	.	...	...	..	...	..	...	1	...	..	...	...	1	1	·05
Injuries	...	1	2	3	6	...	1	3	.	3	8	1	12	11	23	1·14
Cachexia	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	..	1	...	...	...	3	3	·15
Other diseases	25	31	25	18	17	27	18	32	53	47	33	14	167	179	346	17·20
Total ...	186	291	187	107	112	108	118	162	280	234	170	80	1,040	934	2,004	...
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.				
	93 72	158 129	109 78	50 57	61 51	60 48	61 57	80 82	133 147	118 106	83 87	40 40				
Percentage of monthly mortality to total mortality of 12 months.	9·28	14·51	9·33	5·33	5·58	5·38	5·88	8·08	13·97	11·67	8·48	3·99				

Population dealt with, 48,339. Rate of mortality, 41·4 per 1,000.

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

Infant mortality in the Presidency.

XII. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have formulated, or are formulating, any definite line of action in order to reduce the high rate of infant mortality in the Presidency, referred to by me in a resolution in 1914, and again in the form of a question on the 2nd March, 1915?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"The causes responsible for the high proportion of infantile mortality are so inextricably bound up with the domestic life and social customs of the people that they cannot be eradicated by any special action of Government. It is from provision by local authorities of trained midwives and lady doctors, and their influence among country *dhais;* and from the education of women in the essentials of domestic hygiene through the instruction of girls at school, and the general diffusion of sanitary knowledge that Government believe most will be effected in mitigation of the evil. The measures taken for the reduction of malaria and for the improvement of water-supply will also have their effect in reducing the large amount of infantile mortality which is due to fever and bowel diseases. Improvement is primarily to be looked for in municipalities, but the increased attention paid to accuracy in the registration of births and deaths is likely to obscure a decrease in the proportion of infantile mortality for some time after it has set in."

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

Sanitation in Rajshahi.

XIII. Will the Government be pleased to state what improvements in sanitation have been effected by the posting, in January, 1913, of a Deputy Sanitary Commissioner to the sole charge of the Rajshahi Division, which appointment was intimated by Government in reply to my question on sanitation asked on the 29th January, 1913?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"The effects of this appointment have been observable in the stimulation of municipalities and local bodies to sanitary activities, and their education in the requirements of public hygiene. In addition to his general duties the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner has done valuable work in the supervision of the registration of births and deaths, in the inspection of vaccination, and in the investigation of malaria, and organisation of remedial measures against the disease."

By the Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY :—

Pensions and gratuities to relatives of deceased Government officers, assassinated.

XIV. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in detail the pensions and gratuities which have been granted to the relatives of deceased officers of Government, who were assassinated in Bengal during the period 1905-1915?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR was laid on the table :—

"A detailed statement is laid on the table."

Mr. Kerr.

Statement referred to in the Answer by the HON'BLE MR. KERR *to Question No. XIV (unstarred) asked by the* HON'BLE BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 6th March, 1916, showing in detail the pensions and gratuities, etc., which have been granted to the relatives of deceased officers of Government who were assassinated in Bengal during 1905-1915.*

Serial No.	Name and rank of the deceased officer.	District	Year of assassination.	Pension, gratuity or jagir sanctioned for the family of the deceased.
1	Nanda Lall Banarji, Sub-Inspector of Police.	C. I. D., Bengal Police ...	1908	A jagir yielding an annual income of Rs. 1,250 to the mother. On her death the jagir was transferred to the maternal grandfather of the deceased. The grant has been made subject to the payment of Rs. 500-4 to Government as land revenue.
2	Ashutosh Biswas ...	Public Prosecutor, Alipore, 24-Parganas.	1909	A jagir yielding a net annual income of Rs. 5,384 to the widow and the eldest son jointly and revenue free during the lives of both. On the death of the survivor it will be assessed to revenue at half rates during the life of the next heir of the eldest son and thereafter at full rates.
3	Khan Bahadur Shamsul Alam, Deputy Superintendent of Police.	C. I. D., Bengal Police ...	1910	(1) A sum of Rs. 2,500 to the family to meet expenses till a jagir was sanctioned, and (2) a jagir yielding an annual income of Rs. 5,659 free of revenue during the life of the widow and her eldest son; it will be assessed to revenue at half rates during the next life and thereafter at full rates.
4	Srish Chandra Chakravarti, Head Constable.	S. B., Calcutta Police ...	1911	A pension of Rs. 600 a year to the mother for life.
5	Raj Kumar Ray, Sub-Inspector of Police.	C. I. D., Eastern Bengal and Assam.	,,	(1) A pension of Rs. 75 a month to the widow for life. (2) In the event of the widow dying before her son reaches the age of 25 years, an allowance of Rs. 20 a month to the son till he attains that age. (3) In the event of the widow dying before the marriage of her daughters, an allowance of Rs. 15 a month to each of the daughters until marriage.
6	Mon Mohan Ghosh, Inspector of Police	Bakarganj	,,	(1) A pension of Rs. 75 a month to the widow for life. (2) In the event of the widow dying before either of her sons reaches the age of 25 years, an allowance of Rs 20 a month to each of the surviving sons till he attains that age. (3) In the event of the widow dying before the marriage of her two daughters, an allowance of Rs. 15 a month to each of the daughters until marriage. (4) A sum of Rs. 600 as a dower on the marriage of the second daughter.
7	Ismail Sheikh, Constable ...	Tippera	,,	A pension of Rs. 4 a month to the widow for life or until marriage.
8	Rati Lal Roy, Head Constable.	Dacca	1912	A pension of Rs. 25 a month to the widow for life.
9	Bankim Chandra Chandhuri, Inspector of Police.	Mymensingh ...	1913	(1) A pension of Rs. 100 a month to the widow for life. (2) The continuance of Rs. 50 a month of the widow's pension to the son for life should he survive her. (3) A sum of Rs. 1,500 to pay debts and funeral expenses.

Serial No.	Name and rank of the deceased officer.	District.	Year of assassination.	Pension, gratuity or jagir sanctioned for the family of the deceased.
10	Hari Pada Deb, Head Constable.	C. I. D., Calcutta Police ...	1913	(1) A pension of Rs. 50 a month to the wido for life. (2) A pension of Rs. 25 a month to the moth of the deceased for life. (3) A pension of Rs. 25 a month to any pos humous child in the event of the wido dying before the child, if a boy, attair the age of 21 years, or is married, if girl.
11	Nripendra Nath Ghosh, Inspector of Police.	Ditto ditto ...	1914	(1) A pension of Rs. 150 a month to the wido for life and after her death allowances t the surviving children, if any, on the fo lowing scale :— (*a*) an allowance of Rs. 20 a month to eac of the two daughters until death c marriage ; (*b*) an allowance of Rs. 50 a month to th son for life. (2) A pension of Rs. 50 a month to the moth of the deceased for life. (3) An allowance of Rs. 15 a month each t the two younger brothers up to the ag of 25 years, should their mother pre decease them. (4) A sum of Rs. 3,600 to clear debts. (5) A sum of Rs 750 as dowry to each of th two daughters upon marriage.
12	Ram Bhajan Singh. Constable.	I. B., C. I. D., Bengal ...	,,	A pension of Rs. 15 a month to the mother fo life.
13	Sarat Kumar Bose, Head Master, Comilla Zilla School	Tippera	1915	A gratuity of Rs. 2,000 to the children to enabl them to discharge their father's liabilitie The oldest son has been provided with a appointment in the Agricultural Departmen and the two younger sons are receiving fre education.
14	Suresh Chandra Mukherji, Sub-Inspector of Police.	S. B., Calcutta Police ...	1915	(1) A pension of Rs. 120 per mensem to th widow for life for the maintenance of her self and her children. (2) An allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem to eacl of the three daughters should the mothe die before their marriage, the allowanc ceasing on their marriage. (3) An allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem to the son, should the mother die before h attains the age of 24 years, the allowanc ceasing on his attaining that age. (4) A pension of Rs. 20 per mensem to th mother of the deceased for life. (5) A pension of Rs. 45 per mensem to th widowed sister of the deceased for life and should she predecease her children th continuance of her pension to her five children as five separate pensions of Rs. each, which will cease on marriage in the case of a girl, and on attaining the age o 24 years in the case of a boy. (6) A pension of Rs. 20 a month for life to one of the younger brothers of the deceased. (7) A dowry of Rs. 750 to each of the daugh ters and of Rs. 500 to each of the niece of the deceased upon marriage. (8) A sum of Rs. 1,000 to pay debts.
15	Kalap Nath Pattak, Constable	Calcutta Police ...	,,	The question of the provision to be made for the families of these officers is under the consideration of Government.
16	Girindra Nath Banerji, Sub-Inspector of Police.	I. B., C. I. D. Bengal ...	,,	
17	Jatindra Mohan Ghosh, Offg. Deputy Superintendent of Police.	Ditto ...	,,	

Babu U. L. Ray ; Mr. Donald ; Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq ; Mr. De.

By the Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY :—

XV. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of new appointments made in the clerical staff of the Bengal Secretariat from the 1st April, 1912, to the 31st March, 1915, and to state how many of these appointments have been given to Hindus and Muhammadans of Eastern Bengal, respectively? Appointments in the Bengal Secretariat.

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"A statement giving the information desired is laid on the table :—

Statement referred to by the HON'BLE MR. DONALD *in his Answer to Question No. XV (unstarred) asked by the* HON'BLE BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 6th March, 1916, showing the number of* new *clerical appointments made in the Bengal Secretariat during the period from the 1st April, 1912 to the 31st March, 1915, and how many of these were given to Hindus and Muhammadans of East Bengal.*

Office.	Number of appointments created.	Number of Hindus of East Bengal appointed.	Number of Muhammadans of East Bengal appointed.	REMARKS.
Political, Appointment and Judical Departments.	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Financial Department ...	1	Nil	Nil	Filled by promotion in the office, the resulting vacancy in the last grade has not yet been filled up.
Revenue Department ...	7	2	1	
General Department ...	3	2	1	
Public Works Department.	4	Nil	Nil	
Legislative Department	1	Nil	Nil	

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

XVI. Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal for acquiring and demolishing any portion of the Kerbelai Imambarah in Portuguese Street for the purpose of road extension under the Calcutta Improvement Trust? The Imambarah in Portugnese Street.

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"No scheme embodying such proposal has been submitted to the Government."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

XVII. (*a*) Is it a fact that it is proposed to acquire about 412 bighas of land in villages Mudih, Boroz, Gobindpur, Dhakuria and neighbouring villages in Dihi Panchanangram, in pargana Khaspur, in the district of the 24-Parganas, for the purpose of the construction of a park and a lake? Proposed acquisition of certain villages in 24-Parganas.

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the said area contains several mosques and numerous graves and burial-grounds, some of the latter being still in use?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Hindu and Muhammadan residents of the locality have protested against this proposed acquisition on various grounds?

(*d*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what decision has been arrived at in the matter?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) Land is being acquired in the villages named for the purpose of obtaining a sufficient supply of earth for the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust and for the construction of a park and a lake. A copy of notification No. 12231 L.A., dated the 14th December, 1915, is given below.

(*b*) There appear to be one building used as a place of worship and a small burial ground within the boundaries of the land notified for acquisition It is not proposed to acquire these under the Land Acquisition Act.

(*c*) A petition of this nature has been forwarded to the Chairman of the Trust over the names of seven Muhammadans and one Hindu."

NOTIFICATION.

DECLARATION.

No. 12231 L.A.—The 14th December 1915.—Whereas it appears to the Governor in Council that land is required to be taken by Government at the expense of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, for a public purpose, viz., for the purpose of obtaining a sufficient supply of earth for the operations of the Trust and for the construction of a park and a lake, in the villages of Mudiali, Boroj, Gobindpur, Dhakuria and Gariahat, Dihi Panchannagram and pargana Khaspur, zilla 24-Parganas, it is hereby declared that for the above purpose a piece of land measuring, more or less, 412 bighas of standard measurement, bounded on the— 24-Parganas.

North—By the land acquired for the dumping ground at Mudiali, premises No. 23 Mudiali Road, Nos. 101 and 99 Dhakuria Road, Nos. 1-1-2 and 1-1-1 Gobindpur Road, No. 1 Boroj Road, Nos. 95, 94 and 92 Dhakuria Road, No. 40 Dhakuria Road, the remaining portion of No. 44 Dhakuria Road, Banamali Bidyasagore Lane, the remaining portion of No. 45 Dhakuria Road, Nos. 24, 22 and 21 Keyatola Lane, Cocklar Lane, Keyatola Lane, Nos. 14, 11, 9 and 5 Keyatola Lane, the remaining portion of No. 52 Dhakuria Road and Dhakuria Road.

East—By Nos. 44-1 and 44 Gariahat Road, the remaining portion of Nos. 52, 54, 55 and 59 Dhakuria Road, Dhakuria Road, No. 63 Dhakuria Road, No. 99 Dhakuria Road, No. 1-1-1 Gobindpur Road, No. 40 Dhakuria Road, Nos. 12, 13 and 24 Keyatola Lane, the land of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, Budge-Budge branch.

South—By Nos. 54 and 55 Dhakuria Road, the land of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, Budge-Budge branch, the land acquired for the dumping ground at Mudiali,

West—By the land acquired for the dumping ground at Mudiali, premises No. 23 Mudiali Road, No. 1 Boroj Road, Boroj Road, Mudiali Road, No. 99 Dhakuria Road, No. 1-1-1 Gobindpur Road, No. 92 Dhakuria Road, Dhakuria Road, Nos. 38, 38-1 and 40 Dhakuria Road, Nos. 21, 14, 11 and 5 Keyatola Lane and the land of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, Budge-Budge branch,

is required within the aforesaid villages of Mudiali, Boroj, Gobindpur, Dhakuria and Gariahat.

This declaration is made, under the provisions of section 6 of Act I of 1894, to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Calcutta Improvement Trust.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Pension-holders of the Nizamat family of Murshidabad.

XVIII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of pension-holders belonging to the Nizamat family of Murshidabad and the amount of pension paid to each of them?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the legal obligations of Government (if any) necessitating the payment of such pensions?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) The total amount of the political pensions at present paid to the Nizamat family of Murshidabad is Rs. 4,86,670-2. The number of individuals who receive a pension is 458. The majority of these are descendants of former Nawabs Nazim of Bengal; but in some cases pensions have been granted to dependants and old servants who would otherwise be destitute. Government do not consider it advisable to publish the names of these pension-holders, but I shall be glad to show a list of them to the Hon'ble Member if he so desires.

(*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Murshidabad Act (XV of 1891), under which Government are required to make an annual payment of Rs. 2,30,000. All grants beyond this sum are given as an act of grace."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Prospects of clerks in Registration offices.

XIX. (*a*) Is it not a fact that clerks and muharrirs in Registration offices are very much underpaid in comparison with the ministerial officers in other departments of Government ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether they are taking any steps to bring the pay of those officers into line with that of the ministerial officers in other Government offices. or otherwise to improve their prospects ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) Clerks and muharrirs in Registration offices receive less pay than the ministerial officers in other departments of Government.

(*b*) The question of the revision of the pay of the ministerial establishment of the Registration Department has engaged the attention of Government for a long time. In the year 1911 schemes of reorganization were prepared both in the old province of Bengal and the late province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, but no final decision could be reached before the territorial changes of 1912. Since then a revised scheme for the Presidency of Bengal has been prepared and submitted to the Government of India. It will not be possible in any case to give effect to the scheme until the return of normal conditions after the war."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Promotion of Sub-Registrars in grade IV.

XX. (*a*) Is it a fact that the promotion of Sub-Registrars in grade IV of the Registration Department has been held up for some time ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this block in promotions ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) The last list of promotions, including all vacancies up to September 5th, 1915, was published in the Gazette of November 3rd, 1915. Since September 5th there have been 10 vacancies, the earliest of which occurred on September 27th, 1915. Promotions to these vacancies will shortly be notified.

(*b*) The question does not arise."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Prospects of Sub-Registrars in grades IV and V.

XXI. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are taking any steps to improve the pay and prospects of Sub-Registrars in grades IV and V of the Registration Department ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY was laid on the table :—

"A scheme for revising the grades of Sub-Registrars has been under the consideration of Government since the year 1913. The scheme, when sanctioned, will improve the prospects of Sub-Registrars who are now in grades IV and V, but it is unlikely that funds will be available for giving effect to the scheme until the war is over and normal conditions are restored."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Vacancies in the Bengal Secretariat Establishment.

XXII. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*a*) the number of vacancies which occurred in temporary and permanent posts in the various departments of the Bengal Secretariat between the 1st April, 1912, and the 31st December, 1915 ;

(*b*) how many of these vacancies were advertised, inviting qualified Muhammadan candidates to submit applications, and in how many cases Muhammadan public bodies and Associations were informed of these vacancies ; and

(c) how many of such vacancies were actually filled up by the appointment of Muhammadans otherwise than by office promotions or transfer from other offices ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"A statement giving the required information is laid on the table :—

Statement referred to in the Answer by the HON'BLE MR. DONALD *to Question No. XXII (unstarred) asked by the* HON'BLE MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ *at the Council Meeting of the 6th March, 1916, showing the number of vacancies (permanent and temporary) which occurred in the several Departments of the Bengal Secretariat between the 1st April, 1912 and the 31st December, 1915 and the number of Muhammadans appointed to them otherwise than by promotion or transfer.*

OFFICE.	NUMBER OF VACANCIES.		NUMBER OF MUHAMMADANS APPOINTED—		REMARKS.
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Permanently.	Temporarily.	
olitical, Appointment and Judicial Departments.	19	Nil	6	Nil	
inancial Department ...	12	1	2	Nil	Two vacancies not filled up.
General Department ...	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Revenue Department ...	9	3	1	Nil	
Public Works Department ...	15	Nil	4	Nil	
Legislative Department ...	5	12	2	Nil	

N.B.—Two permanent vacancies in the Legislative and one in the Financial Department were advertised

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Advertising of vacancies in Government offices.

XXIII. Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, are taken to advertise vacancies in the various Government offices in the Presidency, and what facilities, if any, are given to Muhammadan candidates to obtain information regarding such vacancies ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"The rules for filling up vacancies in mufassal offices of Government direct that whenever a permanent vacancy occurs or is about to occur in a paid appointment, a notice of the fact shall be suspended in some prominent place in the office, and a date, which shall not be less than 15 days after the issue of the notice, shall be fixed for filling up the vacancy. In a circular issued in April, 1914, the Governor in Council directed that this procedure should be supplemented, when necessary, by inviting the assistance of recognised Muhammadan Associations to secure qualified candidates.

Under the rules regulating the appointments in the Lower Division of the Secretariat and in offices of Heads of Departments, the estimated number of vacancies during the year in these offices is notified in the *Calcutta Gazette* on or before the 30th April of each year. When, at the annual clerkship examination, there is no suitable Muhammadan candidate to whom a post specially earmarked for a Muhammadan can be offered, a candidate is selected after advertisement in the leading Muhammadan newspapers. Government have under consideration a proposal to supplement this rule by a direction that recognised Muhammadan Associations should be informed whenever vacancies specially earmarked for Muhammadans occur in these offices."

Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq ; Mr. De.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Expenditure Muhammadan cation

XXIV. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount received by the Local Government during the years 1912-13, 1913-14 and 1914-15 for expenditure on education either from Imperial grants or out of the Royal grant for education ?

(*b*) Will the Government also be pleased to state the total amount spent out of these sums, during each of the above years, exclusively in the furtherance of schemes for the advancement of Muhammadan education ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"A statement giving the information required is laid on the table."

Statements referred to in the Answer by the HON'BLE MR. DE *to Question No. XXIV (unstarred) asked by the* HON'BLE MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ *at the Council Meeting of the 6th March, 1916.*

	Total actually spent.			Total spent exclusively on schemes for the furtherance of Muhammadan Education.		
	1912-1913	1913-1914.	1914-1915.	1912-1913.	1913-1914.	1914-1915.
A.—Non-recurring.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
I. Non-recurring Imperial grant of 1911-12 ...	9,99,000	1,73,000	2,04,000	35,260	38,889	24,036
II. Four lakhs for hostels outside Calcutta and Dacca	33,000	1,07,000	1,32,000	14,959	34,808	49,380
III. Ten lakhs for hostels in the City of Calcutta	35,000	15,000	2,44,000	...	...	12,000
IV. Non-recurring grant of 75 lakhs ...	...	13,39,000	18,00,000	...	6,493	2,27,196
Total ...	10,87,000	16,34,000	23,80,000	50,159	80,190	3,12,612
B.—Recurring.						
I. For truly popular education (9,25,000) ...	5,96,000	9,80,000	9,79,000	1,000	14,967	24,393
II. One-and-half lakhs for improvement of secondary education.	1,26,000	1,29,000	1,28,000	2,300	3,938	4,296
III. Special grant of Rs 2,85,000 for Eastern Bengal Districts.	2,85,000	2,85,000	2,85,000	31,093	34,436	34,500
IV. Lump provision of Rs. 13,20,000 for development of education	...	4,28,000	6,97,000	...	...	16,840
V. Further grant for improvement of education, 1,50,000.	...	...	48,000	...	...	1,870
Total ...	10,07,000	18,22,000	21,37,000	34,393	53,341	81,899
GRAND TOTAL (A AND B) ...	20,94,000	34,56,000	45,17,000	84,552	1,33,531	3,94,511

N.B.—In addition to the above grants a sum of Rs. 4,47,644 in 1913-14 and a sum of Rs. 6,29,080 in 1914-15 were allotted for enhancement of pay of teacher serving in aided primary schools and maktabs. It is not possible to say how much was spent out of these sums exclusively for maktabs.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Abolition of Survey classes, etc., in the Dacca School of Engineering.

XXV. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Vernacular Survey Classes at Dacca and the Mechanical and Electrical branches of the Dacca School of Engineering have been abolished ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state when and on what grounds the abolition was made in each case ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Survey classes at the Dacca Engineering School came to an end in the year 1914, and the students then attending were transferred to the new Survey School at Mainmatti, Comilla. The reasons for the transfer were the want of adequate accommodation at Dacca, the difference in educational status between the Survey and Engineering students, and the advantages afforded by the new school in point of site and facilities for training.

The Mechanical and Electrical branches of the Dacca School of Engineering will be discontinued from the end of the current session with effect from the 1st April, 1916. The reasons for this decision are the small demand for men with College qualifications in these subjects, and the existence at the Sibpur College of a much larger staff and better equipment for instruction."

By the Hon'ble MR. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI :—

Grants for sanitation in Bengal.

XXVI. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*a*) the total amount of Imperial grants, both recurring and non-recurring, received for sanitation in Bengal since the year 1911 ;

(*b*) the projects on which these grants or any portion of them have been spent ; and

(*c*) the balance unspent, if any ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"Statements showing the total amount of grants for sanitation since the year 1911 and the distribution of expenditure are placed on the table. The unspent balance up to the end of the year 1915-16 is estimated to be Rs. 48,32,000."

Statements referred to in the Answer by the HON'BLE MR. DE *to Question No. XXVI (unstarred) asked by the* HON'BLE MR. CHAKRAVARTI *at the Council Meeting of the 6th March, 1916.*

Total amount of Sanitation Grants.

(*a*) The table below shows the amount of Imperial grants (both recurring and non-recurring) received for expenditure on Sanitation in Bengal since the year 1911-12:—

	Unspent balance on 31st March 1911.	Amount of 1911-12.	Grants received in—				Total.
			1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Non-recurring ...	13,30,000	7,25,000	20,00,000	...	...	...	40,55,000
Recurring ...	..	...	4,50,000	4,50,000	4,50,000	4,50,000	18,00,000
Ditto ...	...	...	.....	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	15,00,000
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73,55,000

Mr. De.

Statement of expenditure on Sanitation in 1911-12.

Serial No.	Particulars.	Amount.
		Rs.
1.	Angul and Khondmals for water-supply	2,000
2.	Purnea (M) for drains and water-supply	1,250
3.	Kustea (M) for drainage	4,000
4.	Temporary establishment, Sanitary Board's office	30,000
5.	Bhagalpur (M) for rebuilding boilers	3,695
6.	South Suburban (M) for water-supply	11,700
7.	Dalsing-Serai Union for improvement of roads	275
8.	Distribution of medical aid in malarial tracts	15,300
9.	North Barrackpur (M) for drains	1,000
10.	Purchase of a Theodolite, Sanitary Board's office	375
11.	Remodelling P. W. drains at Kurseong	13,338
12.	Furniture, Sanitary Board's office	374
13.	Arrah (M) for water-works	5,000
14.	Purchase of Quinine for distribution	2,536
15.	Gaya (M) for drainage	50,000
16.	Model Septic tank, Buxar Jail	2,000
17.	Monghyr (M) for water-works	50,000
18.	Calcutta Corporation for drainage of fringe area	24,643
19.	Dredging of Bhagirathi	1,000
20.	Howrah (M) for water-supply	2,50,000
21.	Dredging of the Nawai and Sunthi rivers	1,00,000
	Total ...	5,86,486

Statement of expenditure on Sanitation in 1912-13.

Serial No.	Particulars.	Amount.
		Rs.
1.	Contribution for 1910-11 to the Calcutta Corporation on account of drainage of the fringe area	7,975
2.	Anti-malarial operations in North Barrackpur	1,000
3.	Mosquito Brigade, Dacca	220
4.	Mathematical instruments for the office of the Sanitary Board, Bengal ...	460
5.	Cement testing apparatus for the office of the Sanitary Engineer, Bengal	600
6.	Calf-sheds in the Animal Vaccination Depôt	20,000
7.	Purchase of instruments and establishment, etc., charges in connection with Stegomyia enquiry	11,189
8.	Bankura water-supply and drainage	1,000
9.	Deputation of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in connection with the distribution of gratuitous medical aid to malaria-stricken people	12,900
10.	Anti-malarial measures in Eastern Bengal	30,562
11.	Preparation of almanacs in connection with the distribution of quinine	3,600
12.	For diverting the municipal nikasi drain running inside the compound wall of the Entally Vaccine Depôt	2,014
13.	Howrah Municipality for extension of water-works	2,50,000
14.	Dredging the Bhagirathi	9,900
15.	Fees to Messrs. Lane, Brown and Hewett for preparation of a sewerage scheme for Dacca City	22,000
16.	Contribution to the Calcutta Corporation towards Sinking Fund and interest charges of the loans raised by them for the drainage of the fringe area	41,057
17.	Sanitary Board's Office Establishment	30,000
18.	Contribution towards the cost of jungle clearing in the town of Chittagong	1,000
19.	Utterpara Municipality for drainage scheme	3,533
20.	Rent of land and house for the sweepers employed on the anti-malarial campaign at Dacca	8
21.	For accommodation of the medical officer and his staff in charge of the Stegomyia survey	300
22.	Baranagore Drainage	11,000
23.	Travelling and messing allowances of the non-official delegates to the All-India Sanitary Conference held at Madras	556
24.	Contribution towards the cost of fencing the catchment area of the water-supply, Kurseong Municipality	510
25.	Katwa drainage	25,000
26.	Improvement of Darjeeling water-works	7,000
27.	Grant to District Boards for improvement of rural water-supply ...	48,004
28.	Contribution towards the pay of the special officer in charge of the Conservancy Department of the Dacca Municipality	840
	Total ...	5,42,228

Mr. De.

Statement of expenditure on Sanitation in 1913-14.

Serial No.	Particulars.	Amount.
		Rs.
1.	To the Chittagong Municipality towards the cost of clearing jungles in the town	750
2.	To the Bhatpara Municipality for drainage works	10,000
3.	To the Howrah Municipality for its main drainage canal	1,00,000
4.	For water-supply scheme of the Kalimpong town in Darjeeling ...	7,529
5.	Ditto of Sukeapukri in Darjeeling	1,788
6.	To the Chittagong Municipality for sanitary improvement of the town ...	20,000
7.	For water-supply to the Lawn Homes at Kalimpong	5,000
8.	To the Bhadreswar Municipality for its drainage scheme	17,500
9.	To the Dacca Municipality on account of the cost of arrangements made for the conservancy in January and February 1914 in connection with the concentration of troops at Dacca	9,385
10.	To the Rangpur District Board for improvement of drainage of the town of Kurigram	2,000
11.	To the Dacca Municipality to supply drinking water from their mains to the troops free of charge during the concentration at Dacca ...	1,549
12.	To the Dacca District Board for constructing 44 wells in the Harirampur thana of the district	15,400
13.	One-third of the liability of the Corporation on account of sinking fund and interest charges on loans raised by them for the drainage of the fringe area	12,354
14.	To the Burdwan Municipality for extension of water-works	33,000
15.	One-third contribution to the District Boards for improvement of rural water-supply	42,947
16.	Contribution to the Chittagong Municipality in aid of water-supply scheme	2,00,000
17.	To the Faridpur District Board for water-supply in the Goalundo sub-division	6,000
18.	To the Kurseong Municipality being one-third of the expenditure for fencing the catchment area of the water-supply incurred in excess of the original estimate	323
19.	For the water-supply scheme of the town of Satkhira	26,000
20.	To the Kurseong Municipality in aid of its drainage scheme ...	6,000
21.	To the Darjeeling Municipality for carrying out certain improvements on the Victoria Road and Birch Hill Road	9,000
	Total ...	5,56,525
22.	Retention of establishment for Dr. Bentley's field laboratory ...	2,700
23.	Purchase of enamelled iron plates (notice boards) in connection with the sale of quinine	1,200
24.	Anti-malarial work in Western Duars in Jalpaiguri	6,525
25.	Ditto in Nadia, Jessore, Murshidabad, Siliguri and Hugli	13,545
26.	For relief to the people in the flooded areas in Burdwan	12,220
27.	For advertisement charges of quinine sale	4,692
28.	Expenses during the prevalence of bubonic and other plagues ...	5,870
	Total ...	46,752
29.	Addition and alteration in, and construction of, servants' quarters in Animal Vaccine Depôt in Entally	9,811
	GRAND TOTAL ...	6,13,088

Mr. De.

Statement of expenditure on Sanitation in 1914-15.

Serial No.	Particulars.	Amount.
		Rs.
1.	Purchase of enamelled iron plates (notice boards) for quinine sale including freight charges	3,400
2.	Investigation into the sewerage of Calcutta	44,400
3.	Anti-malarial operation in Western Duars in Jalpaiguri	1,425
4.	Stegomyia enquiry at Calcutta	1,500
5.	Anti-malarial operation in eight districts of Bengal	12,500
6.	Ditto ditto in Malda	6,985
7.	Advertisement of quinine sale	4,692
8.	Drainage scheme of the Kushtia Municipality	3,450
9.	Purchase of quinine for Noakhali Municipal Dispensary	300
10.	Ditto for Jessore ditto	400
11.	Ditto for Basirhat ditto	450
12.	Ditto in Burdwan Division	1,900
	Total ...	81,402
13.	Completion of pucca drains in North Barrackpore Municipality ...	4,000
14.	Extension of water-supply in the Narainganj Municipality	1,00,000
15.	Extension of water-works of Munshiganj	7,200
16.	Pay of European Engineer-Secretary, etc., of Chittagong Municipality ...	20,000
17.	Drainage works at Rajbari	2,639
18.	Water-supply in rural areas under District Board, Jessore	1,415
19.	Improvements to water-works, Berhampore Municipality	23,000
20.	Sanitary arrangement in connection with the Lower Ganges Bridge project	6,000
21.	Improving the drainage scheme of the Baruipur Municipality ...	4,950
22.	Conservancy of the Dacca Municipality	7,500
23.	Completion of water-works, Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality ...	50,000
24.	Completion of water-works, Barisal Municipality	5,000
25.	Water-works of the Utterpara Municipality	44,815
26.	Construction of drains in the Panihati and North Dum-Dum Municipalities	17,679
27.	Improvements to water-works, Berhampore Municipality	17,000
28.	Preliminary survey in connection with the improvements to the Bagerkhal and Jamuna	600
29.	Refitting of electric installation in the office of the Sanitary Engineer, Bengal	1,681
30.	Cost of the property known as Killa Kidderpore at Narainganj ...	34,950
	Total ...	3,48,429
31.	Contribution of the Calcutta Corporation for drainage of the fringe area	42,017
32.	Establishment of the office of the Sanitary Engineer	39,178
	Total ...	81,195
	GRAND TOTAL ...	5,11,026

Mr. De—The Bengal Smoke-nuisances (Amendment) Bill, 1915; Mr. Beatson Bell.

Statement of revised estimate of expenditure in the year 1915-16 from 3 lakhs reserved from the recurring grant of 9½ lakhs for expenditure on Sanitation.

A. The following grants have been sanctioned from the lump provision for recurring expenditure on Sanitation :—

		Rs.
1.	Bankipore water-supply	7,500
2.	Anti-malarial work	12,500
3.	Distribution of quinine among school children ...	5,000
4.	Secretary-Engineer, Chittagong Municipality ...	10,200
5.	Drainage of the fringe area, Calcutta Corporation ...	42,017
6.	Temporary establishment, Sanitary Engineer's office ...	30,000
7.	Experiment on the sewage of Calcutta	5,400
8.	Contribution to Municipal dispensaries for the supply of adequate quantity of quinine	3,825
9.	Contribution to municipalities towards the pay of Sanitary Inspectors	3,860
10.	Rent of the house hired for Laboratory of the Special Deputy Sanitary Commissioner for Malaria Research	1,100
11.	Sanitary arrangements in connection with the Lower Ganges Bridge project	856
12.	Bankura District Board for tank digging and other sanitary works	50,000
13.	Stegomyia investigation	2,000
14.	Cost of the town-planning exhibition by Professor Geddes	11,000
15.	Free vaccination in Bakarganj	3,500
16.	Grant to Tippera District Board for excavating tanks ...	57,455
17.	Improvement of sanitation of the town of Bankura ...	5,000
18.	Cost of printing Bengali almanacs for the advertisement of quinine	4,692
19.	Burdwan drainage scheme	25,390
20.	Bankura drainage	6,525
	Total ...	2,87,819

		Rs.	Rs.
(*a*) Total of Sanitation grants received since 1911	...	...	73,55,000
(*b*) Expenditure in 1911-12	... ...	5,68,486	
Ditto 1912-13	... ...	5,42,228	
Ditto 1913-14	... ...	6,13,088	
Ditto 1914-15	... ...	5,11,026	
Ditto 1915-16	... ...	2,87,819	
Total Expenditure, 1911—1916	...	...	25,22,647
(*c*) Balance available			48,32,353

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM NO. 3.

Legislative Business.

THE BENGAL SMOKE-NUISANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1915.

The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell moved that the Report of the Select Committtee on the Bengal Smoke-nuisances (Amendment) Bill, 1915, be taken into consideration :—

He said :—

"My Lord, the House will remember that when this Bill last came before it, I asked that we might have one more adjournment in order to see whether we could not arrive at an amicable solution on the questions that were before us. The suggestion for an adjournment came, I may say, from the commercial community, but we, on this side of the House, welcomed the suggestion. We were criticised in certain quarters for asking for this adjournment. I, for one, am altogether unrepentant, for I am happy to say that the adjournment has resulted in what we all desired. I hope that the Bill will now go through as a completely non-contentious measure."

The motion was put and agreed to.

Amendments on the Bill.

List of Amendments—Motion No. 1.—The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell moved :—

That the figures "1916" be substituted for the figures "1915" in clause 1.

The motion was put and agreed to.

List of Amendments—Motion No. 2.—The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell moved :—

That. after clause 2, the following be inserted, namely :—

Amendment of section 4.

2A. In section 4, sub-section (*3*), of the said Act. for the words and brackets "One-half of the members (exclusive of the President)" the following shall be substituted, namely :—

"Not more than one-half of the members (including the President)."

He said :—

"The plain meaning of this amendment is that we no longer desire to have an official majority upon the Smoke Board. If this amendment be carried, when we request public bodies to nominate non-official members, we shall not be bound, as we are at present, to counterbalance each non-official member by an official member. We shall at once ask the Port Commissioners and the Corporation of Calcutta each to nominate a member for the Smoke Board, and we, on our part, shall not counterbalance these elected members by the nomination of officials. In the early stages of the Act, it was perhaps necessary that there should be an official majority, but the Smoke Board has worked so smoothly and with so little friction between officials and non-officials that we may safely trust the future administration of the Act to a Board with a non-official majority."

The motion was put and agreed to.

List of Amendments—Motion No. 3.—The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell moved :—

That the figures "1916" be substituted for the figures "1915" in sub-section (*1*) of the proposed new section 8A.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR :—

List of Amendments—Motion No. 4.—The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur to move that before the proviso to the proposed sub-section (*3*) of section 9 the following be inserted, namely :—

"Provided that, if, in any such building, which is a private dwelling-house, there is an apartment in the actual occupancy of a woman who, according to custom, does not appear in public, such Inspector shall, before entering such apartment, give notice to such woman that she is at liberty to withdraw and shall afford her every reasonable facility for withdrawing."

The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell, in asking His Excellency's permission to move the Resolution for the Hon'ble Member, said :—

"As the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur is not here, I think it would be unfair that we should allow his amendment to lapse owing to his non-attendance. This amendment has already been agreed to by Government. I therefore move formally that the amendment standing in the name of the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur be accepted."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell then moved the following consequential amendment :—

That the existing proviso to proposed sub-section (*3*) of section 9 be numbered as a separate sub-section to run as follows :—

"(*4*) Whenever the President makes any order under sub-section (*3*) he shall, as soon thereafter as conveniently may be, report the fact to the Commission."

The motion was put and agreed to.

List of Amendments—Motion No. 5.—The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell moved—

that for sub-clause (*b*) of clause 9 the following be substituted, namely :—

"(*b*) for clause (*f*) of sub-section (*2*), the following shall be substituted, namely :—

(*f*) regulate, with due regard to the safety of shipping, the emission of smoke from the furnaces of vessels ;

(*bb*) the word "and", at the end of clause (*h*), of the same sub-section, is hereby repealed ; and"

He said :—

"We now come to the clause which at one time was contentious, but I am glad to say that it is no longer so. The House will remember that when this Bill was introduced, we maintained that the existing statutory close-time for ocean-going steamers was a mistake. Our desire was that the statutory close-time should be removed, and that the furnaces of steamers, just like those of factories and other places, should be governed at all times of the day and night by some reasonable set of rules. I am glad to say that the steamer companies have come to regard this position as reasonable, and they have met us half way. We, on our part, have been glad to meet them half way. We agreed, as a *quid pro quo* for the abolition of the statutory close-time, that there should be a distinct stipulation in the Act that the rules which govern steamers should be framed with due regard to the safety of ships. It was always our intention that they should be so framed, so we readily agreed to embody this in the Act. It was also agreed between the Government and the shipping community that the draft rules, which would be promulgated under this new sub-section, should be drafted beforehand, so that there would be no further contention after the passing of the Act. I am glad to say that we have now drafted a set of rules which are satisfactory to Government and at the same time satisfactory to the steamer companies. I need not trouble the House by going into the details of these rules, but I may say that the night which I spent in stoking a steamer was of much practical use to me in considering these rules. I saw where the shoe pinched, and where the shoe did not pinch. If we find that the rules do not adequately provide for the safety of steamers, we shall be glad to amend them without delay. If, on the other hand, this enlarged Smoke Committee, with its non-official majority, makes a strong recommendation for the alteration of the rules in the direction of stringency, we shall consider their representation, and shall of course once more consult the steamer companies. Anyhow, the rules as they now stand deserve a fair trial, and I am sure they will have a fair trial. I do not think I need say more at this stage, except to thank the representatives of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Port Commissioners for the help which they have accorded to Government in bringing about a satisfactory solution of this long-standing controversy. I therefore move the amendment which I have just read out."

The motion was put and agreed to.

List of Amendments—Motion No. 6.—The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell moved :—

That, for the words "prescribe rules for" in sub-clause (*c*) (*j*) of clause 9, the word "regulate" be substituted.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Mr. Beatson Bell.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 4.

The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell moved that the Secretary be directed to number the clauses and sub-clauses of the Bill in consecutive order and to make corresponding alterations in all cross-references thereto.

The motion was put and agreed to.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 5.

The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell moved that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 6.

THE AMENDED DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell presented the amended draft Financial Statement for Bengal for 1916-17.*

He said :—

"My Lord, I need not make any lengthy general remarks in introducing the amended draft Financial Statement. Every member of this House has of course studied the Imperial Budget and has read the speech which was delivered by the Finance Member of the Government of India. We are all therefore fully cognizant of the general financial position both of India as a whole and of the provinces within it. We have to exercise the most rigid economy. It is not always easy for us to see the situation in its true perspective. Our vision is necessarily somewhat limited, but the fact remains that every rupee which we—the Provincial Governments—can save is a rupee added to the general resources of the empire, to the funds with which the great battle for freedom is now being fought. It is, therefore, up to us to play the game, and wherever we can find any room for economy we must try to exercise that economy. We have, therefore, framed the provincial budget upon two guiding principles. In the first place, we have seen that the total provincial expenditure shall not exceed the total provincial income; in other words, we have refrained from dipping into our balances, for these balances form part of what I have just described as the battle-fund of the empire. In the second place, we have scrutinised every new scheme in the most searching, I may almost say the most unsympathetic, manner. We have rejected every new scheme unless it is 'imperatively necessary or immediately remunerative.' These are the very words of the Secretary of State, and I hope we have been carrying out his orders in the way that we should. For the present these orders relate only to new schemes. The time may come when we shall have to apply the same tests not only to new expenditure, but to all existing expenditure, recurring or non-recurring. But sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. The net result of our financial efforts has been that we have reduced our provincial expenditure to a sum which is not greater than our provincial income. In fact, there is a small balance upon the right side. These are the main outlines of the draft Financial Statement which I have the honour to lay before the House.

It has also fallen to me to introduce a few budget heads personally.

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL then introduced the following heads :—

REVENUE—

I—Land-revenue.

EXPENDITURE—

3. Land-revenue.

---

* This statement was identical with the Revised Financial Statement as presented to the Council on the 13th March, 1916, except for one or two alterations which will be found outlined in the memorandum accompanying that statement.

REVENUE—

V—Excise.

EXPENDITURE—

7. Excise.

18. General Administration.

REVENUE—

XVIII—Ports and Pilotage.

EXPENDITURE—

21. Ports and Pilotage.

6. Stamps.

10. Income-tax.

REVENUE—

XII—Interest.

EXPENDITURE—

1. Refunds and drawbacks.

REVENUE—

XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation, etc.

EXPENDITURE—

29. Superannuation allowance.

REVENUE—

XXIII.—Stationery and Printing.

EXPENDITURE—

30. Stationery and Printing.

REVENUE—

XXV.—Miscellaneous.

EXPENDITURE—

32. Miscellaneous.

He said :—

"I begin with Land-revenue. This may conveniently be considered under the two sub-heads of ordinary Land-revenue (Provincial receipts) and Major Surveys and Settlements (which are Imperial). As regards ordinary Land-revenue, we made our estimate of receipts for 1915-16 at a time when agricultural prospects were rather gloomy. Taking the province as a whole, those prospects improved during the year, and we expect to exceed our estimate of receipts by Rs. 3,31,000. On the expenditure side of ordinary Land-revenue for the current year we have effected economies to the extent of Rs. 1,29,000. Turning to next year, and still speaking of ordinary Land-revenue, we expect an increase of receipts to the extent of Rs. 1,15,000 and a reduction of expenditure to the extent of Rs. 2,14,000. The improvement of receipts is mainly due to the recovery of the jute market and the reduction in expenditure is mainly due to the postponement, wherever practical, of petty resettlements and economy in works of improvement in Government estates.

As regards the Imperial head of Major Surveys and Settlements, I need only say that in the current year we showed leniency, wherever circumstances

so demanded, in the recovery of survey and settlement charges, and as regards expenditure, I set a good example to my colleagues by promptly stopping the work in Jessore where operations were about to begin. Last year I explained at some length to this House how fatal it is to stop survey and settlement operations after they have begun. I adhere to all that I said on that occasion. In Jessore, however, the orders of the Government of India enjoining imperative economy were received just in time to have the work stopped without disaster. We hope to resume the work in Jessore as soon as financial prospects brighten. As regards Bankura, I announced the postponement of survey and settlement operations as long ago as the 6th April, 1915. Since then the district has been visited by serious distress. I cannot yet say when the work in this district will be resumed. Taking the province as a whole, the expenditure next year on Major Surveys and Settlements will be only twenty lakhs, including buildings, as against twenty-eight lakhs if conditions had been normal. It is expected that about twenty-two lakhs will be recovered next year in the districts where operations are approaching completion.

I now turn to Excise. The actual receipts in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 1,53,74,624 being 1¼ lakh less than the revised estimate and 4¼ lakhs less than the original estimate for the year. The revised estimate was reduced with reference to the actuals of the first 10 months, but there was a further decrease in consumption in the last two months and the revenue fell in proportion. The consumption of country spirit decreased by 105,241 gallons, of ganja by 376 maunds and of opium by 156 maunds. Two factors contributed to this decrease—administrative measures and economic conditions. There was an increase of the rate of duty on country spirit in most districts and an increase in the maximum prices in West Bengal; there was also a curtailment of the hours during which shops can remain open. The economic conditions (I am still speaking of 1914-15) were those arising from the outbreak of the war.

The sanctioned estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 1,60,00,000, but, owing to the large fall in consumption in the first 10 months of the year, it is not anticipated that the receipts this year will exceed Rs. 1,50,00,000. With effect from the beginning of the year the treasury price of opium was raised to Rs. 40 a seer throughout the Presidency and the duty on ganja from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 a seer. This increased taxation caused a rise in the retail price of these drugs, and this again reacted on consumption. The total decrease in consumption of ganja and opium to the end of January, 1916, compared with last year's figures, is 18,302 seers and 9,434 seers, respectively. The consumption of country spirit also decreased during the period by 60,015 gallons. To sum up, the consumption of all intoxicants was less in 1914-15 than in 1913-14, and there is every sign that it will be still less in the current year. During the months which immediately followed the outbreak of the war people became sober by the force of necessity and they have continued sober by the force of habit. I congratulate my friends of the Temperance party on the figures which I have just quoted.

We expect no increase in the income next year, for, as I have just remarked sobriety seems to have become a habit. The recent orders of the Government of India raising the cost price of opium from Rs. 8-8 to Rs. 11 a seer will also affect the revenue under the head 'Gain on the sale-proceeds of opium.'

Turning to Excise expenditure, towards the close of the year 1914-15, partial effect was given to the scheme for the reorganization of the Excise Department and its amalgamation with the Salt Department. The scheme has been further developed in the current year, but it cannot be completed till the financial position improves. The increase of Rs. 36,000 in the budget for next year over the revised for the current year is due mainly to the provision made for the probationary Superintendents and Inspectors appointed during the current year.

Turning next to the budget head of General Administration, I have nothing to add to the explanations contained in the Financial Statement.

Col. Edwards.

As regards Ports and Pilotage, Receipts and Expenditure, I have little to add to the explanation given in the Financial Statement. The figures on both sides of the Budget are of course affected by the prevailing shortage of tonnage. The waterway in Chittagong harbour has continued to engage the anxious attention of Government. It is now recognised, both by this Government and by the Government of India, that a second and more powerful dredger is required at Chittagong; but it is also recognised that, even if funds were forthcoming, it is impossible at present to obtain the dredger. Meanwhile enquiries are being made as to the best type of dredger, and for 1916-17 the usual grant of 1½ lakh is being made to the Port Commissioners of Chittagong.

In regard to Stamps, I would explain that we found it necessary during the year to appoint a gazetted officer to deal with the valuation of the properties in Calcutta in respect of which probates and administrations are applied for. Hitherto the work had been done by a non-gazetted officer under the supervision of the Collector; but this was not deemed a satisfactory arrangement and it was considered advisable to place this important work in the hands of a more responsible officer.

In regard to Income-tax, I have nothing to add to what is contained in the Financial Statement.

I have also little to add to the remarks contained in the Financial Statement under the heads Interest, Refunds and Drawbacks, Receipts in aid of Superannuation, Superannuation Allowances and Stationery and Printing. I might, however, mention the buildings of the Military Accounts Department in Koila Ghat Street. Owing to the transfer of these buildings to the Eastern Bengal Railway we have to transfer to Sealdah the part of our Press which is now accommodated in Koila Ghat Street. This will necessitate a certain amount of additional expenditure.

As to Miscellaneous, the allotments under this head largely follow those of previous years. We have increased the General Reserve by half a lakh to meet unforeseen demands. We have thought it necessary to make some larger provision in this Reserve on account of the rigorous reductions made in the budgets of the various departments. We have also made a larger allotment for gratuitous relief. The sum of Rs. 50,000 provided in the current year's budget was found insufficient to meet the charges on this account brought about by the floods in Tippera and the drought in Bankura. We had to reappropriate very considerably in order to meet the necessary expenditure. We have, therefore, fixed the allotment at a much higher figure for 1916-17, as the outlook is not yet clear."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 8.

The Hon'ble Col. EDWARDS introduced the following heads :—

REVENUE—

XX—Medical.

EXPENDITURE—

24. Medical.

He said :—

"My Lord, during the past year our war reserve of 35 medical officers has been steadily depleted. The last Indian Medical Service man on the war call has just gone, making a total of 38. The posts formerly held by the Indian Medical Service officers have practically all been filled by non-Commissioned medical officers, and by this means a monetary saving has been effected, which will be more noticeable in the ensuing year.

Against this saving must be placed an increased expenditure owing to the rise in price of drugs, dressings, medical stores and diet.

Mr. Birley.

No unavoidable expense will be incurred next year, but some expenditure must be met in connection with the Dacca Lunatic Asylum. It has been found absolutely necessary to improve the pay of the staff of keepers in this asylum, and some slight structural additions and alterations must be made both in the Dacca and Berhampore Asylums.

Our balances contain provision for the new Ranchi Asylum, but this work has been postponed owing to financial stringency.

During the past year the Tropical School has been completed, but it has not been equipped yet, and its opening will be no doubt postponed until after the war.

The hospital in connection with this school will be built by public subscription during the next year and I trust that by the end of the year, Sir Leonard Rogers, F.R.S., will have succeeded in getting a large number of the beds permanently endowed. Perhaps I may be allowed to mention here that in the last 220 years 34 men of the Indian Medical Service have achieved the very high distinction of being made Fellows of the Royal Society and that Sir Leonard has been the last to get it.

A site has been acquired during the past year for the Eye Hospital which is so urgently required; the building of this hospital will not, however, be undertaken next year. I wish to call attention to the fact that the overcrowding in the present Eye Hospital is becoming a grave matter. It is especially marked in the out-patient department where it amounts to a scandal.

I hope that before long the Belgachia Medical College will be in a position to claim the five lakhs of rupees which we have in our balances.

Major D. McCay, I.M.S., Professor of Physiology, is continuing his research work on diabetes, but the expenses incurred here are practically entirely defrayed by the Indian Research Fund.

Plans for the new Mitford Hospital buildings are now being prepared, based on Colonel Newman's very excellent suggestions. The work will be begun with the money already collected for the King Edward Memorial Fund.

These are the only points to which I think it necessary to call attention in this budget; but I wish to add that in that great group of buildings known as the Medical College, we have no hostel for students and what is worse still no servants' quarters."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 9.

The Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY introduced the following heads :—

REVENUE—

IX—Forests.

EXPENDITURE—

11. Forests.

REVENUE—

XXIA—Agriculture.

EXPENDITURE—

26A. Agriculture.

REVENUE—

XXIB—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

Mr. Green.

EXPENDITURE—

26B. Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

He said :—

"My Lord, I have the honour to introduce the budget heads which relate to the Forest Department.

The continuance of the War has adversely affected the timber market and has interfered with sales with the result that the gross revenue which we expect to realise during the current year will not exceed 11¼ lakhs. For next year the total receipts have been estimated at 11½ lakhs. This allows for some increase in the sales of timber which is anticipated, but much will depend on conditions which cannot be foreseen. On the expenditure side, economy has been observed and the current year's estimate has been reduced to 6¼ lakhs. In the estimates for next year economy has been observed and the total estimate of 6½ lakhs does not provide for anything but unavoidable expenditure.

I now turn to the receipts of the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments. The revised estimate of receipts for the current year has been raised to Rs. 84,000 from Rs. 82,000 in the sanctioned estimate. The small increase is due to larger receipts from Agricultural farms. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 94,000, and provides for a growth in the revenue from Agricultural farms, especially the Rangpur Farm.

On the expenditure side of the budget under these heads Rs. 11,17,000 was provided for the requirements of the department for the current year, but this has been raised to Rs. 11,61,000 in the revised estimate. The increase is due to the expansion of the Agricultural Department, as well as to the appointment of additional auditors in the Co-operative Department. It was decided that in the present financial situation no proposals for expenditure that could be postponed without grave inconvenience should be admitted. The estimate for 1916-17 has therefore been considerably curtailed, making a provision of Rs. 11,29,000 only to carry on the current normal work of the Department.

Under the head 'Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments' the revised estimate of receipts for 1915-16 amounts to Rs. 5,20,000, as compared with Rs. 3,53,000 in the sanctioned estimate. The increase is due to larger sales of quinine for which there is a growing demand by the public as well as by the Military and other departments. The estimate of receipts for 1916-17 is Rs. 5,22,000. The expenditure under this head for 1915-16 was estimated at Rs. 5,05,000, but in the revised estimate it has been reduced to Rs. 4,64,000. The decrease is chiefly due to savings in the grant for contingencies of the cinchona factory and to smaller expenditure on Fishery Experiments. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 6,44,000. The increase is due mainly to the provision of expenditure for the Director of Industries as well as for the development of industries, and also to the inclusion of the grant to the Dacca Museum."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 10.

The Hon'ble Mr. Green introduced the following heads :—

REVENUE—

XXIX—Irrigation—Major Works.

EXPENDITURE—

42. Irrigation—Major Works (Working Expenses).

REVENUE—

XXX—Minor Works and Navigation.

Mr. Green.

EXPENDITURE—

43—Minor Works and Navigation.

REVENUE—

XXXI—Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.

EXPENDITURE—

45.—Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.

He said :—

"My Lord, I have the honour to introduce for the consideration of Council the Public Works heads of the Budget entitled Irrigation Major Works, XXIX—Receipts and 42—Expenditure and Minor Works and Navigation, XXX—Receipts and 43—Expenditure. The Major Works with which we have to deal in this Presidency, as at present constituted, are the Midnapore and Hijili Tidal Canals. The latter is for navigation only, while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation. The receipts have practically remained the same as previously, there being a slight increase under receipts due to navigation and the fact that the Tidal Canal has been cleared of silt and was therefore open for through traffic. The navigation receipts from these canals, however, still suffer from railway competition.

As the work of clearing silt from the locked reaches has been completed there has been no increase in the expenditure of the year 1915-16 and none is anticipated during 1916-17. As I remarked last year considerable expenditure is incurred every year on clearance of silt from portions of these canals, it would be more economical to carry out such work by a small suction dredger instead of by hand labour as at present. It is hoped that it will be possible to purchase a suitable dredger for this purpose when funds may be available.

I now turn to the heading 'Minor Works and Navigation,' which is more important in its effect upon Provincial Revenues. The chief sources of revenue under this head are the tolls received from navigation on the Calcutta Canals, the Sunderbans route and the Madaripur Bhil route, which together form the navigable route for boats and inland steamers between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal. The receipts from these sources are estimated at Rs. 4,75,000 out of the total estimated receipts of Rs. 6,20,000 against the current year's budget estimate of Rs. 5,70,000. The current year's revised estimate of receipts is expected to amount to Rs. 6,20,000. This large increase both in the current year's revised estimate and in next year's budget estimate is chiefly expected from the Madaripur Bhil route and is due to the fact that the channel has been open for navigation throughout the season, and it is hoped that this will continue to be the case in future years. On account of the opening of the Utterbhag Lock some increase is also expected under Navigation receipts—Magra Hât Drainage channels as compared with the actuals for 1914-15. There may also be an increase under water rates, Eden Canal, owing to the construction of a new supply sluice. By the construction of this sluice and connected works, when completed, a great improvement in the supply of water is expected and if this is realised it will be possible to send a larger discharge down to flush the Kana Nadi, the Saraswati and the other rivers included in this system of canals. The current year's revised estimate of expenditure under 'Minor Works and Navigation' remains practically the same as the budget, being Rs. 22,50,000 as against the budget estimate of Rs. 22,92,000. The decrease is under Establishment. A special provision of Rs. 1,30,000 has, however, been made for creating a spill from the Bidyadhari river. The work is urgently needed and cannot be deferred.

For expenditure during 1916-17 a total provision of Rs. 20,92,000 has been made. This is the minimum that will be required to keep existing works in efficient working state."

Mr. Lyon.

Under the head 'Capital outlay' a provision of Rs. 1,50,000 for works only has been made against the Madaripur Bhil channel for dredging the lower Kumar river at Ghar Magura and completing the works in connection with the new embankment along the south bank of Bhil channel. Both these works are essential in order that a return on the expenditure already incurred may be realised and are expected to prove immediately remunerative.

A sum of Rs. 1,00,000 has also been provided for the Bidyadhari spill acquisition. It is expected that this work, as at present proposed to be carried out, will be nearly completed by the end of the coming year. A sum of Rs. 15,000 has also been provided for the construction of the second supply sluice and connected works, Eden Canal, which are likely to be completed early in the ensuing year. The amount put down for river training works is the minimum that will be required to maintain the *régime* of the rivers during the dry season.

I have also to introduce the heads of *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.*

I have nothing to add to the statements which have been made on pages 3, 11, 22 and 23 of the Amended Draft Financial Statement.

Paragraph 59, on pages 22 and 23, deals with the expenditure for this and the coming year. There is a decrease of Rs. 1,00,000 under Establishment in the revised budget of expenditure for this year which is due partly to an increase in the receipts from the Government of India as contribution towards the establishment employed on Imperial Works and partly to savings on account of officers on Foreign and Military Service.

For the coming year after providing for establishment and repairs and for the completion of works which will be in progress on the 1st April we have the small sum of Rs. 4,50,000 left for new works the distribution of which is shown on page 23 of the statement."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 11.

The Hon'ble MR. LYON introduced the following heads :—

REVENUE—

XVII—Police.

EXPENDITURE—

20—Police.

REVENUE—

XVI B—Jails.

EXPENDITURE—

19 B—Jails.

He said :—

"My Lord, I have the honour to introduce the heads of Jails and Police in the Budget for the coming year. I have very little to add to the Financial Statement, as it has given, either in the letterpress or in notes to the Statements, an explanation of all the variations in revenue or expenditure under these heads which are in any way noticeable.

As to Jails : we can hardly expect to maintain the profits from the heavy supplies made to the Military Department in 1915-16, and consequently the estimate of receipts from Jail Manufactures has been made cautiously and placed at Rs. 8,00,000 against Rs. 9,30,000 in the current year. Expenditure has, however, risen to 25½ lakhs, as compared with Rs. 24,31,000 last year.

This is due in part to the extra cost of dietary, but also to the large increase in the jail population, which has raised the cost of maintenance generally and has necessitated an expenditure of Rs. 25,000 on temporary accommodation for the extra prisoners. We hope also to be able to do something during the year to improve the position and prospects of our jail warders, a long-suffering class of public servants whose case requires urgent consideration at our hands. Rupees 50,000 have been provided in our Budget to meet the cost of a scheme prepared with this object, which has been submitted for the sanction of higher authority.

The Budget for the police force has been drawn up with the most scrupulous regard for economy, and the estimate of expenditure stands at Rs. 1,09,62,000 as compared with Rs. 1,10,26,000 last year. Although there has thus been a small reduction in actual expenditure, this sum includes some items of new expenditure which have been necessitated by recent conditions in Calcutta, among which may be noted the appointment of a Superintendent for the Motor Vehicle Department, the appointment of additional European police for duty in the trading quarters of the town and provision for an additional company of armed civil police.

Under general police heads we have had to provide for the continuance of the admirable work initiated by the Inspector-General of Police for dealing with organised gangs of dacoits under the Criminal Tribes Act, while the Training School at Surdah, which has been recently inspected by His Excellency the Governor and myself and found to be working on excellent lines, requires an additional grant.

There are also increases of not inconsiderable size, based upon actual expenditure in the past year, in the estimates for travelling allowance, clothing and so on, due to the enlargement of the force and its increased activity.

Unfortunately, however, the circumstances of the year prevent our proceeding with many excellent schemes for the improvement and strengthening of our police force, and the betterment of the position of the men employed in it, which have been worked up with great care and ability by the Inspector-General of Police and which the Governor in Council would have been very glad to have carried through with the minimum of delay. They are calculated to affect the efficiency of the police materially by improving the health, the position and the prospects of the force and thus making it more contented. The Government greatly regret the inevitable postponement of such schemes and sympathise sincerely with Mr. Hughes-Buller, the Inspector-General, who has been forced by considerations of health to take long leave and will thus be prevented from seeing these plans and schemes, in which he has taken such practical and zealous interest, brought into actual working."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 12.

The Hon'ble Mr. HORNELL introduced the following heads :—

REVENUE—

XIX.—Education.

EXPENDITURE—

22.—Education.

He said :—

"My Lord, I have the honour to introduce the heads of Revenue and Expenditure in the Education Budget Estimate for the year 1916-17.

2. *Receipts.*—There is nothing specially interesting on the revenue side of the budget except the fact that the steady increase in the receipts of the

Education Department has been maintained, as will be evident from the following figures :—

			Rs.
1912-13	...	Actuals	7,77,676
1913-14	...	Do.	8,10,953
1914-15	...	Do.	8,47,110
1915-16	...	Sanctioned Budget ...	8,86,000
1916-17	...	Estimate	9,05,000

3. *Expenditure.*—The upward tendency on the expenditure side of the Budget has, however, been arrested and the estimate under review shows a decline not only from the sanctioned budget for the current year, but also from the actuals for the year 1914-15.

The following figures explain the situation :—

			Rs.
1911-12	...	Actuals	61,21,873
1912-13	...	Do.	73,76,829
1913-14	...	Do.	81,12,515
1914-15	...	Do.	92,07,022
1915-16	...	Sanctioned Budget ...	1,05,62,000
1916-17	...	Estimate	88,30,000

4. The abnormal financial conditions which now prevail are responsible for this state of affairs. The estimate which I am now placing before the Council shows a falling-off of Rs. 17,32,000 from the sanctioned budget for the current year, but this is solely under the Imperial assignments. Of the non-recurring Imperial grants a provision of Rs. 3,44,000 only has been made for expenditure during the next year. Moreover the recurring allotments have been reduced by Rs. 5,00,000—the sanctioned grant for the Dacca University. The total reduction under the Imperial grants amounts to Rs. 20,56,000. Against this must be set off an increase of Rs. 3,24,000 which has been allowed in the charges provided from Provincial Revenues, the total expenditure estimated from this source amounting to Rs. 63,66,000 against a sanctioned provision of Rs. 60,42,000 in the current year's Budget. The grant for the Calcutta University hostels has not been included in the above estimate of expenditure on the Provincial side of the Budget, but has been considered along with the other Imperial grants. The net decrease is, therefore, Rs. 17,32,000 as already stated.

5. The increase of Rs. 3,24,000 in the expenditure financed from Provincial funds is distributed as follows :—

	Increase (over the sanctioned provision in the current year's Budget).	Decrease
	Rs.	Rs.
University	No change	...
Direction	...	6,000
Inspection	95,000	...
Government Colleges, General ...	24,000	...
Ditto, Professional ...	8,000	...
Government Schools, General ...	1,11,000	...
Ditto, Special ...	72,000	...
Grants-in-aid*	...	26,000
Scholarships	No change	...
Miscellaneous	47,000	...
Refunds	...	1,000
	+ 3,57,000	− 33,000

The total increase is therefore Rs. 3,24,000.

* Excluding the grant for the Calcutta University Hostels.

6. The Financial Statement before us explains the increase and the decrease in detail. I shall not repeat the explanation; I will content myself with setting out a few outstanding features of the estimate for the year in prospect—

(*a*) A provision of Rs. 25,860 has been made for five additional Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan Education. This is not a new item. The appointments were sanctioned temporarily in 1914-15 and the charge hitherto has been met from savings in the Imperial grant for Secondary Education included in the Recurring Imperial assignment of Rs. 13,20,000—this assignment has been reduced in the estimates for the coming year to Rs. 8,20,000.

(*b*) Provision for the School at Hastings House, Alipore, has been made in the estimate under "Government Schools, General," "High Schools for boys."

(*c*) An increase of Rs. 30,000 has been provided for stipends for primary school teachers under training. The increase does not provide for any new stipends, but is intended to meet the cost of the stipends already sanctioned. There will be a deficit in the sanctioned budget for the current year under this head which will be made good from the Imperial recurring grant for the purpose.

(*d*) A provision of Rs. 60,000 has been included under "Miscellaneous" under the head "Grant to Dr. Bose for Scientific research", and the scholarship and research grants hitherto provided under "Arts Colleges for boys" have been withdrawn. On his retirement from the service of Government, Dr. Bose has been appointed an Emeritus Professor of the Presidency College and this provision represents his pay and research grants and the pay of his assistants.

7. To revert to the Imperial assignments. I will merely add a word in conclusion to show how the non-recurring grant provided in the Budget will be spent. A total provision of Rs. 3,44,000 has been made against all the non-recurring Imperial grants. This sum includes Rs. 50,000 which is the unspent balance of the 10 lakhs grant to the Calcutta University for college hostels in Calcutta. The provision is also designed to cover a contribution of Rs. 2,23,000 towards these hostels, which contribution will be in part payment of the amount of Rs. 3,50,000 which this Government have agreed to make over to the University from the balance of certain previous Imperial grants. After paying Rs. 2,73,000 to the University there will be a balance of Rs. 71,000, and this balance will be spent in completing the schemes in connection with the Baker Madrassa Hostel and the Calcutta University Institute which are now in hand."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 13.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA introduced the following heads :—

EXPENDITURE—

19 A.—Courts of Law.

24.—Sanitation.

REVENUE—

XXXI.—Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers.

EXPENDITURE—

45.—Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers.

He said :—

"My Lord, I rise to introduce the heads of the Financial Statement standing in my name.

The total budget estimate for the year 1915-16, which was Rs. 1,01,24,000, has been raised to Rs. 1,05,40,000 in the revised estimate

with reference to the actual charges of the first eight months of the year. This increase is chiefly due to large payments of lawyers' fees in connection with political cases, to the extra expenditure caused by the appointment of Additional District and Sessions Judges, and to the charges under the Defence of India Act in connection with political cases.

The total estimate for the year 1916-17 has been fixed at Rs. 1,00,20,000. The decrease is due to provision having been made for 13 instead of 19 Judges of the High Court, and some reduction in the establishment and contingent charges of the Appellate Side of that Court owing to the creation of a separate High Court at Patna. Additional provision has been made in the budget for the grant of a contract allowance of Rs. 1,000 a month to Mr. Haydn for the supply of typewritten transcripts of evidence of witnesses in the Calcutta High Court, for an additional Legal Remembrancer and his establishment and contingencies, and for four new posts of District and Sessions Judges and their establishment in Bengal. With a view to improve prosecutions in important State trials, the post of Additional Legal Remembrancer has been created for a period of one year for the present. The main duty of the officer appointed to the post will be to work out, in consultation with the Legal Remembrancer, a detailed scheme for the organization of a Department of Public Prosecutions in Bengal. Increased grants for fees to pleaders in criminal cases in the mufassal, and for diet and travelling expenses of witnesses have also been provided for.

It has not been possible to make provision in the Provincial Civil Works Budget for the year 1916-17 for any new major works except Rs. 21,000 for the construction of drains and privies in the Alipore District Judge's Court. A provision of Rs. 18,900 has been made for works in progress. A sum of Rs. 5,000 has also been provided in that budget for judicial minor works and reserve."

"My Lord, I also beg leave to introduce the consideration of the figures in the revised Financial Statement for 1916-17 which relate to Sanitation. The figures will be found on page 56.

The expenditure for the current year was originally estimated at Rs. 3,07,000, exclusive of the lump grant of 9½ lakhs for recurring expenditure on Sanitation, but on consideration of the actuals of the past nine months this figure has been reduced in the revised estimate to Rs. 2,88,000. The decrease is due largely to the deputation of officers for military duty. In response to the present demand for stringent economy 6½ lakhs have been surrendered from the lump grant of 9½ lakhs. The principal items which have already been sanctioned from these grants are shown in paragraph 50, pages 19 and 20.

The estimated expenditure for the coming year is governed by the same policy of retrenchment. The maximum expenditure on Sanitation for which it has been found possible to provide in accordance with the general principles determining the Budget is Rs. 1½ lakh to be debited against the lump recurring grant of Rs. 9½ lakhs and Rs. 2,73,000 for administration of the Sanitation and Vaccination Department.

I am also to introduce the figures relating to Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers.

The receipt side of the estimates calls for little comment. The budget estimate for the current year was Rs. 1,57,000, but in the revised this has been reduced to Rs. 1,50,000 on the basis of nine months' actuals. The budget for 1916-17 has been taken at Rs. 1,59,000. The increase is chiefly due to re-settlement of ferries.

As regards expenditure, the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 22,56,000 against the budget grant of Rs. 22,09,000 for the current year, and shows an increase of Rs. 47,000. The increase is chiefly due to the debit to this head of more than two lakhs from the lump grant for sanitation, provided under 'Medical' in the original estimate against the savings in the allotments at the disposal of the Divisional Commissioners and the District

Magistrates as well as to the curtailment of Rs. 40,000 provided for repairs to feeder roads. The following grants have been sanctioned from the amount of 2 lakhs transferred from 'Medical' :—

	Rs.
Bankura Municipality for drainage and water-supply of the town	14,025
Chittagong Municipality to meet the pay of its European Engineer Secretary	10,200
Calcutta Corporation for drainage of the fringe area ...	42,017
Experiment on the sewage of Calcutta	5,400
Bankura District Board for tank digging and other sanitary works	50,000
Tippera District Board for excavating tanks	57,454
Improvement on sanitation in the town of Bankura ...	5,000
Burdwan Municipality towards drainage scheme ...	25,390
Total ...	2,09,486

In addition to Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 57,454 specified above, special grants of Rs. 82,666 and Rs. 27,546 were made, respectively, to the District Boards of Bankura and Tippera in excess of their legitimate share of the augmentation grant for the current year in order to enable them to alleviate distress of the labouring classes in those districts. A similar contribution of Rs. 25,000 in excess of a rateable share of the augmentation grant was made to the District Board of Birbhum to undertake anti-malarial measures in the malaria stricken areas of the district.

The estimate for 1916-17 amounts to Rs. 11,40,000 of which details for Rs. 10,73,000 are given in paragraph 60 of the Financial Statement.

The grant of 1½ lakh to the Calcutta Improvement Trust is the recurring annual contribution for 60 years with effect from 1911-12. The other grants which are usually made every year do not call for special comment."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 14.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR introduced the following heads :—

REVENUE—

X.—Registration.

EXPENDITURE—

12.—Registration.

He said :—

"My Lord, I beg to introduce the Budget Estimates relating to the Registration Department.

The receipts for the year 1916-17 are estimated at Rs. 20,50,000. The estimate for the current financial year was initially placed at Rs. 19,00,000. In the first nine months of the current year (April to December), the actual receipts, however, exceeded that in the corresponding period of 1914-15. by Rs. 1,17,152. The revised estimate for the current year has, therefore, been put at Rs. 20,00,000 and that of next year allows for an increase of Rs. 50,000 over this figure.

In 1914-15, with the outbreak of the War, the consequent dislocation of trade, specially in jute, and the suspension of credit, there was a rather serious fall of Rs. 2,00,000 in registration receipts. In the current year, the loss has been nearly made good. The trade in jute has largely recovered and owing to the high prices of food grains and distress in several districts on

account of floods and drought, there has been an increase in registrations and receipts which are likely to go up further in the coming year. It is a peculiar feature of the Department that prosperity and adversity contribute almost equally towards the increase of registrations. The former encourages speculation and investment of money in real property and the latter compels the poorer classes to mortgage or sell off their lands.

On the expenditure side, we have provided for Rs. 11,09,000. The sanctioned Budget for the current year was Rs. 11,23,000 and the revised estimate, based on the actuals, has been placed at Rs. 11,22,000. But this has been further cut down by Rs. 13,000 for the next year.

This smaller provision is due to the imperative need for economy which has obliged us not only to postpone expenditure on some important and useful schemes matured with considerable trouble and care for the improvement of the Department, but has compelled us to curtail even many items of necessary expenditure, such as the supply of furniture, iron safes, rebinding of books, etc.

The birth of this department, as an organized Department of Government, really dates from the year 1905, when the Sub-Registrars, working in their own homes and paid by commission, were replaced by a graded, transferable and pensionable service, the offices being taken over by Government. So that a great many things require to be done before the reorganization of the staff or the equipment of offices is complete. It is a pity, therefore, that we must wait till normal conditions return before we can give practical effect to the sanctioned scheme for improving the cadres of District Sub-Registrars and Sub-Registrars with a view to ensuring a more rapid flow of promotion, and to the larger and long-deferred scheme for improving the pay and prospects of the establishments at district head-quarters and mufassal offices, which is nearing the final stage of sanction."

RESOLUTIONS.

(*Under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest.*)

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 15.

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY moved the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that, in selected District Boards in the Province, steps be taken to increase the proportion of elected members, so as to admit of two-thirds of the whole District Board (exclusive of the Chairman) being elected by the Local Boards, under section 7 of Bengal Act III of 1885.

He said :—

"My Lord, it may perhaps be convenient if I give a summary, as briefly as I can, of the existing constitution of the rural boards as prescribed by law. The smallest units of rural boards in the districts outside the principal towns, are the Union Committees. Where they have been constituted in selected areas, the members of such Union Committees are elected from among the residents of the Union, except in certain special cases where Government might, for reasons to be stated in writing, otherwise direct. The next larger unit is the Local Board, the territorial limits of which are co-extensive with either a subdivision or two or more subdivisions combined. In 15 out of 25 districts in this Presidency, a Local Board must be established in every subdivision, and two-thirds of the members of each Local Board must be elected. Lastly, we have the District Board, and with regard to the constitution of the members of the District Board, and the proportion of such members as should be elected, the law requires that where the Local Board has been established in any District, it shall elect such proportion of the whole of the District Board, as the Government may from time to time direct, provided that where Local Boards have been established throughout the whole area of any

Babu M. N. Ray.

District, not less than half of the whole District Board, exclusive of the Chairman, shall be elected by such Local Boards. This is the existing constitution, and in setting it out, I have not trusted to my memory, but I have referred to the notes which I have prepared from the different sections of the Act. It is clear, therefore, that the question raised by this resolution is one entirely for the Government to determine by virtue of executive order and not by legislation. The law distinctly provides that it is for the Government to fix the proportion of elected members of a District Board, but a minimum is prescribed in case where Local Boards have been established for an entire area under the District Board, and the minimum prescribed is that one-half at least of the members of such District Boards should be elected by Local Boards. This minimum is under the law a compulsory minimum in the 15 districts to which I have referred, because a schedule of the Act sets out that in 15 districts which are named therein, Local Boards must be established for the entire area under the District Boards. This was the law that was made in the year 1885. Then we have the Royal Commission upon Decentralisation, and the resolution of the Government of India dated the 28th April 1915. It would perhaps save the time of the Council if, instead of referring to the report of the Royal Commission, I read an extract from the resolution of the Government of India summarising the recommendation of the Commission upon this point. Paragraph 27 of the resolution of the Government of India dated the 28th April 1915 runs thus: 'District and sub-district boards in the opinion of the Commission (Royal Commission upon Decentralisation) should contain a large preponderance of elected members together with a nominated element sufficient to secure a due representation of minorities and of official experience.' The paragraph goes on to say—'In the United Provinces the number of nominated members * * *; in the Central Provinces the number of nominated members cannot exceed one-third of the total number.' With regard to Bengal there is a remark which is somewhat curious in the light of the actual facts, because the Government of India proceeded to say—'There is already a substantial majority of elected members both in the district and sub-district boards in Bengal and in Bihar and Orissa.' I take it in the light of existing facts to be a pious expression of a desire on the part of the Imperial Government that this should be the case, if it is not the case already. As a matter of fact, as I have just submitted to the Council, although the proportion of elected members of Local Boards is prescribed by law in the case of the 15 districts at least to be two-thirds there is no such proportion fixed by Government for the District Boards concerned. As a matter of fact, what I find, my Lord, is this,—I am referring to the figures available from the Government resolution published on the 5th January last, in the *Calcutta Gazette* reviewing the administration of District Boards. The figures supplied furnish interesting material for comment. I find that in 22 districts only a proportion of the number of the District Boards consists of elected members: out of 465 members, only 213 are elected. The remainder consists of *ex-officio* and nominated members, *ex-officio* members numbering in all in these 22 districts, 119, and the nominated members, 133. The total of *ex-officio* and nominated members being thus 252 against 213, the number of elected members. With regard to *ex-officio* members I find that these 22 District Boards contain the total number of 119, which will give in the average more than 5 *ex-officio* members to each District Board, and I hope the number is sufficiently representative of official experience in the language—if I may adopt the language—of paragraph 27 of the resolution of the Government of India.

My Lord, it seems to me the time has come when in selected District Boards at any rate in this Presidency, the proportion of elected members of the District Boards might be increased. We are all aware of the proportion of elected members in the municipalities constituted under the Bengal Municipal Act. No doubt it was not considered desirable that at the very beginning these rural boards lying outside the principal towns should start with such a majority of elected members. But the time, I submit, has come, when this experiment among selected District Boards in this Province may fairly be

Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda; Babu M. N. Ray; Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur; Babu S. N. Ray.

made, and if official support was needed to the views which this resolution recommends, we have the opinion of the Royal Commission upon Decentralisation, which has been adopted by the Government of India. The resolution, my Lord, relates to the existing constitution, and therefore the recommendations of the Bengal District Administration Committee have no bearing upon the present question. We are all aware, at any rate those of us who have read the recommendations of the Bengal District Administration Committee on the subject, that the Committee looked upon Local Boards with disfavour, that they desire that the Local Boards should be abolished and Circle Boards should be appointed in their place. At the same time, the District Administration Committee suggest that when Circle Boards replace the existing Local Boards, they would not in the least affect the elected proportion of members of the District Boards. Their recommendations are that the functions now performed or discharged by the Local Boards with regard to the election of members of the District Board, should be discharged then, not by the Local Board, but by the Circle Boards which they would like to substitute in their place. The question therefore is not material, and any suggestion that, in view of the report of the Bengal District Administration Committee, this matter ought to stand over, is a point, I am sorry, my Lord, I would be unable to realise. The principle of election which is fair and which is reasonable and which is in consonance with the spirit of the time, and which is recommended by the Royal Commission upon Decentralisation, and which is adopted by the Government of India, should, I submit, be given effect to, whether the Local Boards, as now constituted by law, continue to exist or by any change of law, they be replaced by other Boards. This is all, my Lord, I have got to submit in support of my resolution."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said —

"I want only to correct a mistake. The Government of India have since corrected paragraph 27 of their letter and it now runs thus :— 'There is already a majority of elected members in several sub-district boards in Bengal and in a few such boards in Bihar and Orissa. As regards district boards, the present system in Bengal provides for an elected majority to be worked up to as each district progresses in capacity for self-government.'"

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"I am very glad this has been pointed out, but it does not affect in the least the principle which I am advocating, it rather supports it."

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR said :—

"I feel great pleasure in supporting this resolution. I do not find any legal difficulty whatever which bars the carrying out of the terms of the resolution. The Governor in Council has power to lay down the proportion of members to be elected by the local boards. The question is whether it is advisable to increase the proportion of elected members. In my humble opinion however after the good work which has been done by the district boards they are entitled to greater privileges. It is also to be borne in mind that in municipalities the proportion of elected members is one-half, and I do not understand why in the case of district boards the proportion has been less especially when it is borne in mind that the Chairman of the District Board is the executive head of the District. In these circumstances I give my cordial support to this resolution."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"My Lord, I have great pleasure in supporting this resolution. It is more than 30 years ago that the framers of the Local Self-Government Act—Act III of 1885—enacted that not less than one-half of the members of the District Boards (exclusive of the Chairman if appointed under section 22) shall be elected by the Local Boards. During the last 30 years though education has made rapid strides throughout the length and breadth of the land yet no steps have been taken by Government to increase the proportion

Rai R. C. Pal Bahadur.

of elected members in the District Boards. In my pamphlet on 'Local Self-Government' which was published on the 30th November last—a few days before my esteemed and hon'ble friend Babu Surendra Nath Banerji had moved his Resolution in this Council for the extension of local self-government in this Presidency, while speaking of District Boards, the first thing that I suggested was to extend the proportion of elected members in the District Boards. I stated. 'With reference to District Boards, I think the majority of the members should be elected as in the case of municipalities, and not as at present only half the number. This is also the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Decentralization.' In paragraph 27 of the Local Self-Government Resolution of the Government of India, dated the 28th April 1915, we find the following: 'District and Sub-District Boards in the opinion of the Commission (the Decentralization Commission) should contain a large preponderance of elected members, together with a nominated element sufficient to secure the due representation of minorities and of official experience.' The Decentralization Commission submitted their report about seven or eight years ago. The Commission was composed of some of the ablest members of the Indian Civil Service—men like the Hon'ble Mr. Wheeler and the late lamented Mr. Ramesh Chandra Dutt. If it was their deliberate opinion, after having taken a large body of evidence, that there should be a preponderance of elected members in the District and Sub-District Boards, we cannot understand why the recommendation has not been given effect to so long. It may be that your Lordship's Government may be desirous of taking the opinion of District Officers in this matter; but, my Lord, we cannot understand why these Commissions are appointed composed generally of picked men in the service if again the opinion of the District Officers has to be taken to give effect to their recommendation. It would not be necessary for your Lordship's Government to amend or alter the law. The framers of the Local Self-Government Act had the prescience to look far into the future and frame the Act in such a way as to meet the requirements of the progressive times. A generation has passed away since the passing of the Act, but we stand where we did 30 years ago. The municipalities have two-thirds of their members elected. There has not been so far any complaint for this preponderance of the elective element in the municipalities. Why should not the District Boards have the same proportion of elected members? My Lord, we must admit that of late a large measure of liberal policy has characterised the administration in this Presidency. I have advocated for the financial independence of municipalities more than once since April 1913 in my budget speeches in this Council and also in my pamphlet on 'Local Self-Government.' We are thankful to your Lordship's Government for having given us this right. A very important circular has recently been issued by your Lordship's Government regarding the appointment of non-officials as chairmen of municipalities. The circular shews unmistakably which way the wind blows. These rights are no doubt a great step in advance. On the principle that 'knock and it shall be opened' we ask your Lordship's Government for this privilege of a preponderance of elected members in District Boards. It would not be too much to say that the reform which is now sought to be introduced by this resolution will be greatly appreciated in all districts. I feel bound to say that the privilege which should have been granted ere now has unnecessarily been kept back and remains long overdue. It is for your Lordship's Government to grant it and thereby satisfy the educated community of Bengal."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR said :—

"I cordially support the resolution which has been so ably moved by my hon'ble friend Babu Mahendra Nath Ray. I was waiting, my Lord, to listen to the arguments of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department, as to what he had to say in reply to my hon'ble friend the mover of the resolution. But the Hon'ble Member has chosen to remain silent. Perhaps he will speak after everyone has spoken, but it would have been a great advantage to listen to his arguments and to understand both sides of the question. My Lord, as far as we have been able to follow the argument

for increasing the number of elected members, one thing has particularly struck me, and it is this—that since 1885, 31 years ago, the elected and nominated element in the District Board has been half and half, to which of course must be added the Chairman of the District Board who is generally the Collector of the District. Therefore, my Lord, for the last 31 years the official majority has been predominant in the District Board. When we look back to the 31 years that have rolled by since 1885, we find that momentous changes have been made in the system of local self-government in this country, and momentous changes have also been made in the constitution of your Excellency's Government; but the constitution of the District Board has remained stationary without any changes, without any progress during the last 31 years My Lord, the Local Boards are situated in the interior of the country in backward places and there two-thirds majority is granted by Government. Here, in the sadar districts, where the cream of the educated community assembles and presides, half the number is allowed to be elected, and that has been going on for the last 31 years. People, rightly or wrongly, complained that the District Boards seemed to have a little more power than the Local Boards, and it is for that reason that a non-official majority, or a little larger preponderance of the elected element has not been granted. Having regard to the progressive development of self-government in the country, the aspirations of my countrymen to have a larger and larger share in the administration of the districts remain unfulfilled. Therefore, there is naturally a grievance in this respect, which, I believe, your Excellency's Government will see fit to remove. My Lord, this is an opportune time, having regard to the hope, and I should say the unqualified expression of assurances, uttered in higher quarters, that Indians should take their proper place in the administration of the country. This is the proper time to give effect to that pledge. This, my Lord, is the last rung of the ladder of self-government—the granting of a somewhat larger number of the elected element in the District Board. The administration of the country, taken as a whole, will be vested in the officials. This is a very reasonable and moderate request, and I hope your Excellency's Government will accede to it."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, I do hope and trust that my hon'ble friend will rise from his place and give us the assurance that Government are prepared to accept this resolution. The resolution is an exceedingly moderate one. My friend, the hon'ble mover, does not want that in all the District Boards throughout this Presidency the elected element should at once be raised to two-thirds. His submission to this House is that in certain selected areas this should be done. If he had gone a step further and if he had urged that in the 15 districts where there are Local Boards, two-thirds of the members of the District Boards should be elected, I, for one, would have supported him wholeheartedly, and his position from a logical point of view, as well as from the standpoint of the policy of Government, would have been altogether unassailable. I cannot possibly understand what objection there could be to the acceptance of this resolution except this, that there are districts in which there are no Local Boards. To this objection, I would say—eliminate those districts, confine the reform merely to those districts where there are Local Boards, and you have 15 districts in Bengal in that category. It therefore seems to me that the strength of this resolution lies in its extreme moderation, and I hope and trust that my friend, the Member in charge, will be in a position to accept this resolution. My Lord, the policy of Government has been distinctly in favour of the extension of local self-government. I may say it is part and parcel of the policy which underlies the reform scheme of 1909. My Lord, those who have read Lord Morley's famous Despatch on the reform scheme will bear in mind his pronouncements that local self-government forms an integral part of the scheme of constitutional reform which is associated with his name. In pursuance of that policy the Government of India and your Excellency's Government have taken definite and deliberate measures for the

Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.

purpose of advancing local self-government. My Lord, my hon'ble friend opposite has just read out an extract from the Government of India's report in regard to certain corrections made by him. What does the report say? It says that the minimum limit of elected members in the District Boards should be one half, and that it is to be worked up as circumstances progress. Therefore that seems to me to be the strongest argument in favour of my friend's resolution. My Lord, the Decentralization Commission have recommended that there should be a preponderance of elected members in these local bodies. In the municipalities we have that preponderance; in the rural areas, I admit that you should proceed with a little caution, but have you not been overcautious in this matter? Thirty-one years back we started the experiment with a proportion of one-half elected members, and after a generation has passed away, we stand where we were, and still the elected element is one-half. Is it not time to make an advance, and if an advance is to be made, is it not cautious and statesmanlike that we should have selected areas where an advance should be made? and I it would be a policy which would have the unstinted support of the educated community of this Presidency. My hon'ble friend observed some time ago that he was going to remove municipalities from Schedule I, and I believe that he has already taken steps in that direction, and a circular has been issued to all municipalities, asking them, or rather giving them definite instructions, that they should as a rule elect a non-official as chairman. This represents the distinct trend of your Excellency's policy in this matter as regards the municipalities. My hon'ble friend stands somewhat pledged in this matter, and I will read out what he said in reply to my resolution on the 13th of December last. In the course of his speech he said :—

> The desirability of raising the proportion of elected members in the District Boards will be taken up for consideration in connection with the resolution of the Government of India.

At that time, three months ago, it was an open question. Since then, there has been a deliberate advance in the direction of the expansion of local self-government. I do hope and trust that he will be able to give us an assurance that he is now prepared to try the experiment referred to by my hon'ble friend in selected areas. It would be in entire accordance with the policy of the Government of India, the recommendations of the Decentralization Commission and the policy of your Excellency's Government and, what is more, in entire conformity with the advancing trend of educated opinion in this country. I do hope and trust that my friend will accept the resolution which has been moved."

THE Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL HUDA said :—

"My Lord, I fully remember the promise which I made in dealing with the resolution moved by my hon'ble friend, Babu S. N. Banerji, for further advancement of local self-government in this Presidency. I gave a promise to take up for consideration the question of raising the proportion of elected members in the District Boards. My hon'ble friend, Babu Mahendra Nath Ray, has not allowed the grass to grow under his feet and has asked for a very early fulfilment of this promise and we, on our part, have not been slow in giving the matter the consideration we promised. If in dealing with this Resolution I do not enter into a lengthy consideration of the arguments put forward by the hon'ble mover of the resolution and of others who have spoken in support of it, it is for the simple reason that Government are not opposed to the principles underlying it. We have not, however, been able to accept the resolution because considerable changes are in contemplation in the scheme of local self-government under the existing Act in accordance with the recommendations of the District Administration Committee. It is in contemplation to substitute Local Boards by Circle Boards, and the reasons for the change will be found fully set forth in the report of that Committee. The keynote of these alterations will be

Babu M. N. Ray.

found in the following remarks at page 32 of the report, the soundness of which will, I am sure, not be questioned by those interested in the development of local self-government in this Presidency :—

> **We think that it was a mistake to make the District Board the administrative unit of local self-government and to leave the smaller bodies dependent on its charity and with no clearly-defined position in the general scheme. This was to begin Local Self-Government at the wrong end, for the system ought to start from the bottom and work up, as was originally intended in 1883, rather than from the top and work down.**

When the Circle Boards are established Government will then consider, and, I may assure the House, consider sympathetically, the proposal for a larger elected element in the constitution of the District Board. My hon'ble friend, the mover of the resolution, has modestly asked for an increase in the number of elected members in selected District Boards. When the time comes Government will probably go farther and if a selection has to be made at all it will probably be of those who should not get the more liberal constitution rather than those who should. In view of what I have said it will be for my hon'ble friend to consider whether he would press the resolution."

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"My Lord, I am sorry that I am unable to accept the suggestion so kindly made by the Hon'ble Member who has just explained the position of Government. As I said in moving my resolution, I had occasion to give a careful attention to the report of the District Administration Committee, and if I may say so without disrespect, I agree with the recommendations of the District Administration Committee that we should not begin working from the top downwards, but that we should work up to the top. But if the point which is just before the Council is carefully examined, the recommendation which I propose for the acceptance of this Council contemplates not working from the top downwards, but from the bottom upwards. Here, we have Local Boards which have the power of electing a proportion of members of the District Boards which constitute the top. The Local Boards by their very consitution have a majority of elected members in their bodies, and they are required to help in the constitution of the higher body—the District Board—and the point is whether these Local Boards which have an elected majority in their constitution, and which have got to perform the statutory duty of helping to make up the District Board, should not, as representatives of the ratepayers, have the power of returning a larger proportion of members to the District Board. The principle which this question raises is one which is quite in consonance with the recommendations of the District Administration Committee, namely, that we should work from the bottom upwards. I am glad to hear, although we have no official information, that some of the recommendations of the District Administration Committee have been embodied in a Bill which will come before this Council for consideration. If the recommendations of the District Administration Committee with regard to the replacing of the existing Local Boards by Circle Boards form a part of this Bill, it is a matter which will no doubt be discussed on its merits by this Council, but that, I take it, will require time, and I do not believe that in a matter like this we shall have the Local Self-Government Act of 1885 amended for some time to come. At the same time I fail to see why the existing constitution should not be utilised for the purpose of improving the constitution of the District Boards. If it is suggested that the present Local Boards have failed to do their duty, this is a matter of very serious importance upon which we have not heard the Hon'ble Member making clear to us the position of Government. I was looking into the constitution of the Local Boards as revealed by the last resolution of the Government on the subject, and I find that in all the numerous Local Boards in the 15 districts to which I have referred, people return the proportion of requisite members by election, and there is one Local Board in Arambagh which appears to have failed to make the election, so that Government appointed members to

Babu M. N. Ray.

to the Board. This does not show that, so far as the duty of electing two-thirds of the members of the Local Board is concerned—a right the electors enjoy under the law—they have failed so far. The reason why Local Boards have not been quite so successful is because they occupy a very subordinate position to the District Board, and I agree with the report of the District Administration Committee that, under the Act and under the present constitution, they are mere agents of the District Board. But surely that does not take away their representative character. The Local Boards or a substantial majority of them represent members elected by the cess-payers concerned, and I fail therefore to see why the Local Boards which surely possess a representative character under the constitution should not have the right of electing more than the minimum number of members of the District Board as required by the statute. I am sorry, therefore, my Lord, that I am unable to withdraw the resolution, and I beg that it might be put to the vote."

A division was then taken with the following result :—

Ayes 18.	*Noes 27.*
The Hon'ble Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur.	The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Lyon, C.S.I.
„ Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.	„ Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.
„ Babu Surendra Nath Ray.	„ Mr. N. D. Beatson Bell, C.S.I., C.I.E.
„ Dr. Nilratan Sarkar.	„ Mr. J. H. Kerr, C.I.E.
„ Raja Hrishikesh Laha, C.I.E.	„ Mr. K. C. De, C.I.E.
„ Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.	„ Mr. J. Donald.
„ Babu Mahendra Nath Ray, C.I.E.	„ Mr. L. Birley, C.I.E.
„ Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur.	„ Mr. H. H. Green.
„ Rai Prasanna Kumar Ray Bahadur.	„ Mr. E. B. H. Panton.
„ Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur.	„ Mr. C. H. Bompas.
„ Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari, C.I.E.	„ Mr. F. J. Monahan.
„ Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.	„ Mr. W. W. Hornell.
„ Babu Upendra Lal Ray.	„ Surgeon-General Edwards, C.B., C.M.G.
„ Sir Satyendra Prasanna Sinha, Kt.	„ Rai Priya Nath Mukharji Bahadur.
„ Raja Shoshi Kanta Acharyya Chaudhuri Bahadur.	„ Mr. C. F. Payne.
„ Mr. Byomkes Chakravarti.	„ Mr. H. J. Hilary.
„ Raja Mahendra Ranjan Rai Chaudhuri.	„ Mr. J. Lang.
„ Babu Ramtaran Banerji.	„ Mr. Golam Hossein Cassim Ariff.
	„ Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri.
	„ Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.
	„ Chaudhuri Muhammad Ismail Khan.
	„ Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharraf Husain.
	„ Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.
	„ Mr. W. T. Grice.
	„ Mr. E. A. Martin.
	„ Mr. A. W. C. Chaplin.
	„ Mr. E. H. Bray.

The following members were absent :—

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, Amir-ul-Omrah, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.

„ Mr. R. Glen.

„ Mr. A. Birkmyre.

„ Nawab Saiyid Hossam Haider Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.

„ Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Ray.

„ Mr. B. C. Mitra.

The ayes being 18 and the noes 27, the motion was lost.

Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 16.

The following resolution was to have been moved by the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that a recommendation be made to the Governor General in Council that it be provided in the Regulations for the nomination and election of additional Members of the Legislative Council of the Governor of Fort William in Bengal, that the additional Member to be elected to the Bengal Legislative Council by the non-official Commissioners of the Corporation of Calcutta, under Regulation II, sub-head (xi) of the said Regulations, shall not be a Commissioner of the Corporation, or that, in the alternative, a separate electorate be formed for the purposes of the election, comprising such classes of persons as the Governor General in Council may deem fit."

He said :—

"My Lord, since I gave notice of this resolution, I have had an opportunity of consulting some of my hon'ble friends, and I find that there is a difference of opinion among the non-officials as to the advisability of moving a resolution of this character at the present time in this Council. I myself am very unwilling to raise a discussion which may lead to controversy, and in these circumstances, I beg that I may be allowed to withdraw this resolution."

The resolution was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 17.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ moved the following resolution :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that the opinion of Judicial Officers and various public bodies be invited on the proposal to frame a scheme for the execution of Civil Court Commissions by means of Sub-Deputy Collectors and that, meanwhile, the said proposal be held in abeyance."

He said :—

"My Lord, I am sorry I cannot adopt the same course with regard to this resolution. In moving this resolution, my Lord, I do not wish at the present stage to make a long speech, but I wish to place a few facts before the Hon'ble Members of this Council in order that they may know the history of the system which is just now in force, and also the various circumstances under which that system came to be developed. It appears that as early as 1890 a report was submitted to Government by Messrs. Toynbee and Stevens on the ministerial establishments and they brought to notice the very unsatisfactory working of employing civil court amins to make investigations. They therefore recommended the total abolition of that system. The proposal went up to the High Court and their Lordships insisted that members of the legal profession who might be employed in carrying out these commissions, must be well qualified in surveying. In 1902 a system of examination of survey was introduced and at the present time the pleaders who are employed in carrying out these commissions, are gentlemen who hold certificates of proficiency in surveying. I think it is known to members of this Council that this class of legal practitioners who are generally employed in carrying out civil court commissions have practically given up their professional work, and this is their only source of income. When this system was introduced, a sort of promise was given that, so far as may be practicable, pleaders who have got the qualification of surveying would be preferred to outsiders, and this system has, I understand, been consistently followed. It now appears in the letter which has been addressed by the Chief Secretary to the District and Sessions Judges, that it is proposed to

Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq ; Babu Ramtaran Banerji.

frame a scheme abolishing the existing system and introducing a system by which Sub-Deputy Collectors, with the help of a subordinate staff of amins, will carry out this work. Now, my Lord, I do not know if public bodies or judicial officers in each District were consulted before a scheme like this was taken into consideration. I find from the letter itself that the High Court Judges were consulted Whatever may be the value of the High Court as the repository of judicial wisdom, I doubt whether the Judges of the High Court are competent to advise in a matter like this, as they have seldom occasion to deal with Civil Court Commissions. It is only the Munsiffs and Subordinate Judges who have to deal first hand with the work which is done by the Commissioners under the present system, whose opinion can be of any real value and it is very unfortunate that this body of men, who alone are competent to give Your Excellency's Government the most efficient advice in this matter, were left out, and those consulted were the very persons who have never had anything to do first hand with the work done by the present body of Commissioners. It is a pity that on the recommendations of their Lordships of the High Court it is proposed to abolish the present system and introduce a system for which I myself see no justification.

It will be seen, my Lord, that the present body of men who execute these commissions, are in the first place graduates in law of the University, and are pleaders of some standing. They know the practice of working of the courts, and over and above that, they have got proficiency in surveying. I cannot see how the Sub-Deputy Collectors can be considered at all a superior class of men, to whom might be entrusted the duty of carrying out the Civil Court Commissions. At the same time I do not wish to labour this point because my resolution only wants that an inquiry may be made, and that the opinions of judicial officers may be collected. I hope your Excellency will have no objection to this course. The change that it is proposed to make is a somewhat drastic one, and before a change of this character is introduced, I think it is but fair that the opinions of those who are competent to advise your Excellency's Government in the matter should be consulted, and if there is a substantial majority in favour of the change, sufficient time should be granted for this information to be collected. Till then I hope the proposal may be held in abeyance. With these words, my Lord, I beg to commend this resolution for the acceptance of this Council."

The Hon'ble BABU RAMTARAN BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, I agree with the mover of the resolution that a general scheme for the execution of Commissions for local investigations should receive careful consideration from your Excellency's Government, and that the opinion of judicial officers and of public bodies should be obtained on this scheme. Under Rule 9 of order 26 of the Civil Procedure Code the power which is now vested in the court to issue the Commission to such person as it thinks fit will be taken away as soon as the local Government makes rules as to persons to whom such Commissions shall be issued. It is therefore necessary, *firstly*, to inquire whether the existing system of appointing pleader-commissioners for the work has failed ; if so, in what respect, and can the existing system be improved ; and *secondly*, whether the appointment of Sub-Deputy Collectors with a staff of amins under them to do survey and other work in connection with local investigations in civil cases is likely to prove more satisfactory, or in other words whether it would be an improvement on the existing system.

The abolition of the old system of having local investigations done by civil court amins and the introduction of the existing system was effected after mature consideration. There was the report of Messrs. Toynbee and Stevens, there were the opinions of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court and various other materials which were duly considered, and all these resulted in the repeal of Act XII of 1856 and the passing of the Act II of 1899.

Since then a large body of survey-passed pleaders have qualified themselves for the execution of such Commissions and their work generally has

been found satisfactory, at any rate there has been no serious imputation, as far as I am aware, made against their honesty. No doubt these pleader-commissioners have proved far more expensive than Civil Court amins, but it is not at all difficult to prescribe rules regulating their remuneration, their hours of work and other matters of detail. As yet we have not been able to ascertain whether there are any strong and cogent reasons for the discontinuance of the present system, although it is capable of much improvement. These pleader-commissioners have in many cases sacrificed their prospects in the Bar to secure work as Commissioners, and some of them have proved efficient and earned considerable experience, and now, after many years of toilsome, arduous and honest work, to be all of a sudden deprived of their means of livelihood may result in great hardship in many cases, especially in the case of those who have advanced in years. Moreover the appointment of Sub-Deputy Collectors with a staff of amins under them to execute commissions for local investigations in civil cases, I am not disposed to think will prove after all satisfactory. True it is that Sub-Deputy Collectors are mostly graduates of the University, whose integrity is unquestionable, but they belong to a different branch of the provincial service. They belong to the Executive branch and are subordinate to the District Collector.

They are in no way subordinate to the Civil Courts whose commissions they are to execute. No doubt inquiries as to prevailing rates in Enhancement suits are, under section 31 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, made by Revenue Officers as has been pointed out in the circular; but the delay which takes place in execution of the work by them has proved embarrassing to the Courts and highly inconvenient to the suitors. Requisitions from the Civil Courts do not always meet with ready compliance. Moreover the work done in many cases is perfunctory and sometimes ignores the conditions which the law imposes in the ascertainment of rates. I know of a Sub-Deputy Collector who, in determining prevailing rates, altogether lost sight of the important provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act that the rates of rent should be those paid by ryots of the same class in respect of similar description of lands, with similar advantages, and while examined before the Civil Court reiterated his ignorance of the law. The Survey and Settlement Proceedings of Estate Chowrashi conducted by the Revenue Officer some years ago betrayed the same state of things.

It appears from the reports of the decisions of the High Court that the quality of the work of the Revenue Officers has not always impressed the Hon'ble Judges favourably. There are cases in which three separate reports were made one after the other by the Revenue Officer, but still it did not satisfy the Civil Court.

To obviate this difficulty in some districts the work of the Revenue Officer under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act is given to the Munsiff deputed for the purpose.

But the strongest objection to the proposed scheme is that neither the Sub-Deputy Collector nor his staff the amins will be subordinate to or directly under the control of the Civil Courts. This is likely to delay the execution of the work and is hardly conducive to efficient work. I should go further and say that the work is likely to suffer if those who are to execute it are not directly subordinate to the Court whose orders they are to carry out. The Sub-Deputy Collector is not the servant of the Civil Court but of the District Collector who can make or mar his prospects in the service. But no such consideration will weigh with him in doing the work for the Civil Court and this may give rise to friction.

The scheme, as far as one can make out, provides for some portion of the work being done by the Sub-Deputy Collector and by far the greater portion, if I may take it, by his subordinate staff the amins, he being held responsible for their work. I am afraid this may in practice lead to a return of the old repealed system of having local investigations carried on by civil court amins. The fact that formerly we had the Munsiff or the Sub-Judge, or the District Judge directly controlling and supervising their work and now the work of supervision will be done by the Sub-Deputy Collectors who no doubt

Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda; Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq.

may have the advantage of personally going to the *locale;* I am afraid, is not likely to improve matters much. On the contrary the chances are that there is likely to be a renewal of the practices or rather the malpractices of the old system. Such practices were pointed out in the joint report referred to above and there can be no doubt that they existed. Your Excellency will therefore be pleased to give this matter your consideration with the help of the materials and the opinion of public bodies and judicial officers which may be placed before the Government and as the scheme bears upon the administration of justice by the Civil Courts, the innovation be not introduced before the matter is fully considered by your Excellency."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, before dealing with the resolution I should like to give a short history of the employment of pleader-commissioners for executing surveying commissions because the facts stated by the Hon'ble Mover of the resolution are incomplete. Originally this work was entrusted to civil court amins. Apart from other defects it was found that the retention of a permanent inelastic staff to do fluctuating work was undesirable and in 1890 Messrs. Toynbee and Stevens recommended the total abolition of the system and the employment of junior pleaders on that duty. In 1896 the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court were consulted and they expressed themselves on the whole in favour of making the experiment and, as a necessary first step, recommended the repeal of Act XII of 1856 so far as Bengal was concerned. Accordingly the Act was abolished in 1899. To test the knowledge of pleaders to be employed, from 1902 an examination was instituted to be held every year at the Sibpur, Patna, Dacca and Cuttack Colleges under the control of the Pleaders' Survey Examination Board. In April 1914, the Board reported that they were not satisfied with the results of the examinations and were of opinion that it was not possible for pleaders with their scanty opportunities for learning and practising survey to become a competent agency for the performance of this important technical work and recommended the organisation of a skilled service of surveyors or the employment of some other agency for the performance of the work now done by pleader-commissioners. In May 1914, Government consulted the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court on the question, and the Hon'ble Judges after consulting all the District Judges under them recommended the abandonment of the present system and the creation of a service of specially trained men in surveying, and suggested that the system should be tried in selected areas. In support of their recommendation the Hon'ble Judges referred to numerous complaints received of the unsatisfactory manner in which surveying commissions issued by Civil Courts were being attended to and to the opinions received from the District Judges, who were on the whole unfavourable to the existing system of pleader-commissioners and considered them to be expensive, dilatory and not easily amenable to check and control.

The question has since been under the consideration of this Government. As the High Court have condemned the present agency of pleader-commissioners it has become necessary to find a substitute. We cannot accept the contention that the Judges of the High Court are not competent to advise in a matter like this. We are at present drawing up estimates of a new scheme and when ready it will be submitted to the High Court and the Council may rest assured that no orders will be passed without the fullest consideration of the views of those who are competent to give an opinion of value on the question. We cannot, however, accept the resolution in its present form, but in view of what I have said it is for the Hon'ble Mover of the resolution to consider whether he will serve any useful purpose by pressing it."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said :—

"The Hon'ble Member in reply to my resolution has twice referred to the High Court. As to the opinion which has been given, and which has perhaps led to the circular letter which has been addressed to

Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda ; Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq ; Raja M. N. Ray Chaudhuri.

the District and Sessions Judges, I have already said that so far as I am concerned, I am not one of those who is dazed by the judicial glamour of the High Court, and I repeat that the High Court Judges are not necessarily competent to advise Government for the very simple reason that they seldom have any occasion to deal with the reports or with the work of these commissioners, first hand. I am certainly very glad to hear that Government propose to consult those who are competent to give advice in this matter. It is for this reason that in moving this resolution, I suggested that the judicial officers, meaning by that munsiffs and subordinate judges, should be consulted if any consultation is at all necessary, and I repeat that it will serve very little purpose if the consultation is only confined to the High Court Judges, or even the District Judges, for even the latter have seldom any occasion to deal with the work of the pleader-commissioners.

As far as I can understand the Hon'ble Member in charge is ready to take the opinion of those who are competent to advise in this matter, and I think I may fairly claim that Government have accepted my resolution."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"I have not really accepted the resolution."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said :—

"Since the Hon'ble Member gives the assurance that Government are going to consult those who are competent to advise in this matter, I beg to withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 18.

The Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI was to have moved the following resolution :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that all travelling and halting allowances of Gazetted Officers in Civil Departments, including Members of Council, be stopped for a period of two years, and the money thus saved be used for starting a fund, which shall also be open to public subscriptions, and which shall be known as the Bengal Patriotic Fund for the Benefit of Disabled Soldiers ; and its proceeds devoted, in accordance with the recommendations of a Committee to be appointed hereafter, towards helping disabled soldiers of His Majesty's Indian Army returning from the War."

He said :—

"My Lord, in view of the cheery budget just presented and passed by the Government of India giving a fairly large scope to most people for the exercise of patriotism and which, doubtless in due course, will be further extended, and owing to certain other reasons subsequently pointed out to me, I beg with your Excellency's permission, to withdraw the resolution standing against my name."

The resolution was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council was then adjourned to Monday, the 13th March, 1916, at 11 A.M.

A. M. HUTCHISON,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal and Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council (Offg.).

CALCUTTA ;
The 16th March, 1916.

B. S. Press—30-3-1916—3575J—350—B. N. K.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in Government House on Monday, the 13th March, 1916, at 11 A.M.

Present :

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., *Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I., *Vice-President.*

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA.

The Hon'ble MR. N. D. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble COL. W. R. EDWARDS, C.B., C.M.G.

The Hon'ble Mr. F. J. MONAHAN.

The Hon'ble MR. J. LANG.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. K. C. DE, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. DONALD.

The Hon'ble MR. L. BIRLEY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble MR. C. H. BOMPAS.

The Hon'ble MR. B. C. MITRA.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNELL.

The Hon'ble MR. C. F. PAYNE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. B. H. PANTON.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. H. J. HILARY.

The Hon'ble NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., AMIR-UL-OMRAH.

The Hon'ble SIR SATYENDRA PRASANNA SINHA, KT.

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR.

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. R. GLEN.

Raja M. R. Ray Chaudhuri; Mr. De.

The Hon'ble MR. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI.

The Hon'ble SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

The Hon'ble RAJA SHOSHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHAUDHURI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble BABU RAMTARAN BANERJI.

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. E. H. BRAY.

The Hon'ble MR. A. BIRKMYRE.

The Hon'ble MR. W. T. GRICE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. MARTIN.

The Hon'ble MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF.

The Hon'ble MAULVI MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSSAIN.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur.

The Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAI PRASANNA KUMAR RAY BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble CHAUDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN.

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 1.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

of 1. Will the Government be pleased to state the areas cleared of jungle in the last two years in each district, the amount spent in each on road-side drainage, the cleansing and excavating and re-excavating of tanks and wells and in filling up insanitary hollows and depressions?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"A statement giving the information required is laid on the table."

Mr. De.

***Statement referred** to in the Answer by the* HON'BLE MR. DE *to Question No. I (a starred) asked by the* HON'BLE RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI *at t Council Meeting of the 13th March, 1916.*

DIVISION.	District.	Year.	Areas cleared of jungles.	AMOUNT SPENT ON— Road-side drainage.	Cleansing, excavating and re-excavating of tanks and wells.	Filling up of insanitary hollows depressions.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
BURDWAN	Burdwan	1913-14	Not available	Not available	10,259	...
		1914-15	Ditto	Ditto	47,069	...
	Birbhum	1913-14	1,280 acres	1,191	20,517	271
		1914-15	640 ,,	1,991	15,281	440
	Bankura	1913-14	70 miles + 2 sq. miles	3,000	5,373	...
		1914-15	58 miles + 2 sq. miles	2,905	7,038	...
	Midnapore	1913-14	Not available	...*	51,064	...*
		1914-15	Ditto	...*	18,756	...*
	Hooghly	1913-14	18,004,000 sq. feet	17,433	7,639	1,814
		1914-15	14,044,000 sq. ,,	17,701	14,055	1,868
	Howrah	1913-14	.....	...	3,012	...
		1914-15	.....	...	14,614	...
PRESIDENCY	24-Parganas	1913-14	.....	885	6,862	...
		1914-15	153 villages	4,907	26,556	2,690
	Nadia	1913-14	$1\frac{3}{4}$ sq. miles	33,513	12,141	84
		1914-15	$1\frac{7}{10}$,,	38,861	20,910	84
	Murshidabad	1913-14	314 acres	8,590	11,092	...
		1914-15	420 ,,	4,349	26,473	108
	Jessore	1913-14	19 ,,	1,015	13,393	406
		1914-15	20 ,,	2,073	18,354	...
	Khulna	1913-14	.....	3,758	19,388	45
		1914-15	.....	2,850	35,092	7
RAJSHAHI	Rajshahi	1913-14	10 acres	3,464	8,921	2,525
		1914-15	36 ,,	367	22,353	...
	Dinajpur	1913-14	.....	...	...†	...†
		1914-15	.....	...	...†	...†
	Jalpaiguri	1913-14	.....	...	...	...
		1914-15	.....	529	...	...
	Darjeeling	1913-14	214·734 acres	...	1,842	...
		1914-15	214·734 ,,	...	1,709	...
	Rangpur	1913-14	4 sq. miles	2,722	14,908	...
		1914-15	$3\frac{1}{2}$,,	2,161	17,512	517
	Bogra	1913-14	.....	...	22,912	...
		1914-15	.....	...	27,737	...
	Pabna	1913-14	$1\frac{1}{2}$ sq. bighas	...	4,974	...
		1914-15	$9\frac{1}{2}$,,	...	21,691	...
	Malda	1913-14	.....	...	6,208	...
		1914-15	.....	4,779	17,333	112
DACCA	Dacca	1913-14	Not available	9,790	49,235	2,737
		1914-15	Ditto	8,869	60,593	145
	Mymensingh	1913-14	.....‡	...‡	...‡	...‡
		1914-15	.....‡	...‡	...‡	...‡
	Faridpur	1913-14	Not available	1,015	31,807	...
		1914-15	Ditto	3,164	37,627	...
	Bakarganj	1913-14	32 miles	26,686	17,218	180
		1914-15	60 ,,	14,162	17,687	...
CHITTAGONG	Chittagong	1913-14	.....	...	57,078§	...
		1914-15	.....	...		...
	Tippera	1913-14	.....	3,360	10,112	...
		1914-15	.....	42,239	24,737	...
	Noakhali	1913 14	.....	...	...	...
		1914-15	.....	...	...	...

* No separate figures for columns (5) and (7) are available. Total figures are Rs. 21,247 and Rs. 12,201, respectively, for 1913-14 and 1914-15.
† No separate figures are available. Total figures for columns (6) and (7) are Rs. 5,469 and Rs. 8,721 for 1913-14 and 1914-15, respectively.
‡ The District Boards were unable to supply figures in the time available.
§ Figures for two years together.

Raja M. R. Ray Chaudhuri; Mr. De.

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

II. Will the Government be pleased to state the number of trained *dhais* now employed by each District Board and the names of the villages to which they are posted?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"A statement giving the information required is laid on the table."

Statement referred to in the Answer by the HON'BLE MR. DE *to Question No. II (unstarred) asked by the* HON'BLE RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI *at the Council meeting of the 13th March, 1916.*

Dhais (Midwives).

District.	Number of *Dhais* (midwives) employed by District Board	Where stationed
Birbhum	3	Suri. Rampurhat. Labpur.
Mymensingh ...	5	Sadar. Dinajpur. Sherpur. Tangail. Bazitpur.
Jessore	1	Sadar. Hospital.
Dacca	2	Munshiganj. Narayanganj.
Bakarganj	3	Perojpur. Bhola Patuakhali.
Noakhali	1	Feni.
Tippera	2	Brahmanberia. Chandpur.
Dinajpur	2	Thakurgaon. Balurghat.
Rangpur ...	6	Kandy Dispensary. Kakina ,, Gaibandha ,, Kurigram ,, Ulipur ,, Nilphamari
Pabna	1	Sahazadpur.

No other District Boards employ trained mid wives.

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

III. Will the Government be pleased to state what practical measures were carried out in the years 1914 and 1915 by the Sanitary Department and the District Boards in each district towards the improvement of village sanitation and the supply of good drinking water, and also the amounts spent by each District Board for those purposes?

Mr. De.

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"A statement showing the expenditure of each District Board on these objects during the past two years, and the nature of their activities, is laid on the table. The Department of the Sanitary Commissioner is not concerned with carrying out works of this nature. No scheme has been executed under the supervision of the Sanitary Engineer outside municipal areas."

Statement referred to in the Answer by the HON'BLE MR. DE *to Question No. III (unstarred) asked by the* HON'BLE RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI *at the Council Meeting of the 13th March, 1916.*

Water-supply.

District	1913-14.	1914-15.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Hooghly ...	13,519	6,914	Excavating and re-excavating of tanks, preparation of water-supply registers and maps.
Rajshahi ...	8,593	22,022	Excavating and clearing of tanks and wells and sinking of tube wells.
Mymensingh ...	23,938	36,019	Excavating of tanks and wells.
Jalpaiguri ...	5,288	6,546	Sinking of pipe wells for supply of good drinking water.
Nadia ...	11,184	19,023	Construction of masonry wells, silt-clearing, sinking and repairs of existing wells.
Dinajpur ...	5,870	8,721	Boring operation, repairing existing wells, excavation of tanks and survey of water-works.
Rangpur ...	14,908	17,512	Excavation of tanks and wells and repairs to them.
Burdwan ...	19,259	47,059	Ditto ditto.
Bankura ...	2,954	5,894	Ditto ditto providing lifting apparatus to wells.
Khulna ...	19,328	35,086	Excavation and re-excavation of tanks and maintaining existing sources of water-supply.
Birbhum ...	20,517	17,096	Excavation and re-excavation of tanks and repairs to them.
Howrah ...	3,012	14,614	Ditto ditto wells.
Jessore ...	11,517	28,152	Excavation of tanks and wells.
Faridpur ...	47,828	34,036	Excavation, re-excavation and clearing of tanks and wells.
24-Parganas ...	6,862	26,556	Excavation, etc., of tanks.
Murshidabad ...	6,591	17,389	Excavation and re-excavation of tanks, wells and tube well.
Bogra ...	22,912	27,737	Re-excavating and sinking wells, repairing of existing wells.
Pabna ...	4,954	21,691	Excavation of tanks and sinking of masonry wells.
Malda ...	6,209	17,334	Excavating tanks and construction of ghats.
Midnapore ...	51,964	24,128	Excavating of tanks and wells and repairs to them.
Noakhali ...	12,409	53,675	Clearing and excavating of tanks and *khals*.
Pakurganj ...	17,218	23,187	Excavating and re-excavating tanks and clearing weeds therefrom, contribution towards Barisal and Petuapur water-works and contribution to Colonization Department for tanks in the Sundarbans.
Chittagong ...	11,645	42,433	Excavation and re-excavation of tanks and wells.
Dacca ...	49,235	60,593	Excavating and re-excavating of tanks and wells.

Sanitary charges.

Hooghly ...	5,490	4,946	Village sanitation.
Rajshahi ...	3,082	3,663	Prevention of cholera epidemics, filling up of insanitary ditches, pay of Sanitary Inspectors and free supply of quinine.
Mymensingh ...	5,678	2,617	Filling up of insanitary pits, cutting jungles and digging of drains.
Jalpaiguri ...	244	4,058	Combating epidemic diseases and free distribution of quinine.
Nadia ...	5,050	11,365	Clearing jungles, road side drains and weeds of the Jalangi channel.
Dinajpur ...	990	1,197	Village sanitation.
Rangpur ...	6,889	8,638	Jungle clearing and village drainage.
Burdwan ...	981	2,506	Clearing jungles, village drainage works and guarding tanks.
Bankura ...	65	163	Clearing jungles.
Khulna ...	4,442	3,155	Clearing jungles and making village drains.
Birbhum ...	10,184	7,756	Clearing of latrines, use of disinfectants in times of epidemics, sanitary arrangement in *melas*, clearing jungles, filling up of *dobas* and low lands, removal of unhealthy matters and clearing of tanks, etc.
Howrah ...	1,769	3,096	Jungle clearing, etc.
Jessore ...	3,722	3,169	Conservancy, village drainage and pay of Sanitary Inspectors.
Faridpur ...	2,563	1,822	Improving roadside drains and clearing jungles.

Sanitary charges—*concld.*

District.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	
24-Parganas ...	1,552	9,335	Pay and travelling allowances of Sanitary Inspectors, charges for cholera medicines, clearing road-side drains, free supply of quinine, clearing jungles and filling up holes.
Murshidabad ...	687	3,657	Charges for disinfection, free distribution of quinine and clearing jungles, etc
Bogra ...	20	869	Free distribution of quinine and other medicines, pay and allowance of travelling doctors
Pabna ...	147	1,051	Clearing jungles and pay of Sanitary Inspectors.
Malda ...	248	1,876	Sanitary improvement in villages.
Midnapore ...	28,681	20,547	Clearing weeds, baling of impure water of tanks, clearing jungles and drains, filling up ditches, entertainment of Sanitary Inspectors, combating epidemic diseases, sanitary arrangement in *melas* and fairs
Dacca ...	13,532	13,026	Jungle clearing, road-side drainage of villages and filling up insanitary hollows.
Noakhali ...	2,282	1,519	.....
Bakarganj ...	6,469	4,007	Improving *khals*, construction of *kutcha* drains, filling up of ditches and clearing jungles.
Chittagong ...	80	1,475	Distribution of quinine and combating cholera epidemics and sanitary arrangements in the *melas*.
Tippera ...	10,112	24,137	Re-excavation of *khals*.

By the Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI :—

Kurseong Improvement Fund Committee.

IV. Will the Government be pleased to state what practical results have so far attended the labours of the Kurseong Improvement Fund Committee?

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DE was laid on the table :—

"The Kurseong Improvement Committee was abolished in May, 1915. During its existence this Committee completed and maintained the Bourdillon Road, planted trees and flowers along the Pankabari Road, constructed roadside shelters, contributed annually a sum of Rs. 250 to the Kurseong Flower and Vegetable Show and spent about Rs. 700 a year on the development of the Rifle Range which is used as a boys' playground."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

The case of two cocaine suspects

V. (*a*) Are the Government aware of a case in which one Anukul Chandra Chakravarty and one Bhuban Beliary Bose were proceeded against at Dacca and bound down under section 109 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by the Joint Magistrate of Dacca?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to say whether it is a fact that an order of internment had already been issued against one of those two persons under the Defence of India Act when the proceedings under section 109 of the Code of Criminal Procedure were commenced?

(*c*) Is it a fact that both these persons were arrested by the Police at 5-30 A.M. on the 18th November, 1915, and were not produced before any Magistrate until 2 P.M. on the day following, *i.e.*, more than 32 hours after their arrest?

(*d*) Are the Government inquiring into the cause of the alleged undue detention?

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. KERR was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) An order under Rule 3 of the Defence of India Rules directing Anukul Chakravarty to take up his residence at Contai was served, in his

absence, on his father on the 8th November 1915 by the Superintendent of Police, Noakhali, in accordance with section 70 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Anukul was arrested in Dacca on the 18th November 1915, and prosecuted under section 109 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

(*c*) and (*d*) It is a fact that these two persons were arrested by the Superintendent of Police at the beginning of the search in the early morning of the 18th November. They were sent to the court shortly before noon on the following day. It is reported that this breach of the law was due to the fact that the accused were arrested for the second time at 12-30 P.M. on the 18th November, after the conclusion of the search, by a Sub-Inspector who was not aware of their previous formal arrest by the Superintendent of Police, and consequently considered himself entitled to hold them under arrest until noon on the 19th. The Governor in Council regrets that the law should have been infringed in this way, but he is satisfied that a *bona-fide* mistake was made, and does not propose to take any further action in the matter."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

VI. Will the Government be pleased to state what the total number of students has been in the Survey School at Lalmai Hill in Tippera since its establishment ?

Number students in Survey Sch Lalmai Tippera.

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DE was laid on the table :—

"A statement giving the information required is laid on the table."

Statement referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. De *to Question No. VI asked by the* Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq *at the Council Meeting of the 13th March, 1916.*

	First year students.	Second year students.	Kanungoes in training
1913-14	41	...	...
1914-15	35	...	2
1915-16	26	11	3

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

VII. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of students on the rolls—

Number students in abolished tions at Da

(*1*) of the Vernacular Survey Classes at Dacca, and

(*2*) of the Mechanical and Electrical branch of the Dacca School of Engineering,

for five years prior to their abolition ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DE was laid on the table :—

"A statement giving the required information as regards the Vernacular Survey classes at Dacca is laid on the table. The Mechanical and Electrical branch of the Dacca School of Engineering has only existed since July 1913."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. De *in his Answer to Question No. VII (unstarred) asked by the* Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq *at the Council Meeting of the 13th March, 1916.*

(1) Survey Classes at Dacca.

	Number of students on the rolls
1909-10	171
1910-11	131
1911-12	123
1912-13	111
1913-14	86

(2) MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL BRANCH OF THE DACCA SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING.

	NUMBER OF STUDENTS.	
	First year.	Second year.
1913-14	4	...
1914-15	5	4

Note.—No new admissions were made in 1915-16.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

The Survey School at Lalmai Hill, Tippera

VIII. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the school at Lalmai Hill is a residential institution;

(*ii*) if so, the approximate monthly cost incurred by each student; and

(*iii*) the prospects of students who pass out of the said school?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"(*1*) The school at Manamatti is a residential institution, but a few local students are allowed to live at their homes.

(*2*) The approximate monthly cost, including school fees and messing charges, is Rs. 12-8.

(*3*) Appointments have been obtained by students who have passed out of the school in the Bengal Traverse party, Municipal Engineering offices, District Settlement offices, as Civil Court Commissioner and in the service of private estates."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Cost of upkeep of the Survey School at Lalmai Hill, Tippera.

IX. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the average annual cost of upkeep of the Survey School at Lalmai Hill; and

(*ii*) the reduction in maintenance charges effected by the abolition of the Survey classes in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE was laid on the table :—

"(*1*) The annual cost of upkeep of the Survey School at Manamatti Hill, exclusive of capital charges on account of the buildings, amounted to Rs. 17,747 in the year 1913-14, Rs. 22,753 in the year 1914-15 and Rs. 9,575 from the 1st April, 1915, to the 31st January, 1916.

(*2*) The abolition of the Survey classes in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering has resulted in a reduction of Rs. 2,640 a year under 'Maintenance charges.'"

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Teaching staff of certain abolished institutions at Dacca

X. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*1*) what positions are now occupied by the teachers who used to serve exclusively—

(*i*) in the Survey classes of the Dacca School of Engineering; and

(*ii*) in the Mechanical and Electrical branch of the said school;

Mr. De.

(2) how many of them used to belong to the graded services in the Education Department;

(3) what their respective grades and emoluments were at the time of the abolition of their classes; and

(4) how each of them is now employed?

(*b*) Has any member of the teaching staff of the Dacca School of Engineering been transferred, discharged or pensioned off, or is any such step contemplated, as a result of such abolition, and, if so, on what terms?

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DE was laid on the table:—

"(*a*) (*1*) (*i*) The two teachers of the abolished Survey classes of the Dacca School of Engineering are not now in the service of Government. It is believed that they are at present out of employment.

(*ii*) The posts held by the two teachers of the Mechanical and Electrical branch will be abolished from 1st April next. These teachers still hold their appointments at the Dacca School of Engineering.

(*2*) Both teachers of the Survey classes were in the Subordinate Educational Service when these classes were abolished. Both teachers in the Mechanical and Engineering branch are now in that service.

(*3*) Their respective grades and emoluments:—

Survey Department.

Name.	Grade	Emoluments.
		Rs.
Babu Isan Chandra Majumdar	... Class VI of the Subordinate Educational Service.	75
,, Haripada Banerji ...	... Class VIII of the Subordinate Educational Service.	50

Mechanical and Electrical Branch.

Name.	Grade.	Emoluments.
		Rs.
Babu Animesh Chandra Ghosh	... Class IV of the Subordinate Educational Service.	125
,, Kshirod Chandra Sen	... Class VIII of the Subordinate Educational Service.	50

(*4*) The answer to this question is covered by those given in reply to Questions (*a*) (*1*) (*i*) and (*ii*).

(*b*) Babu Kshirod Chandra Sen, one of the two teachers of the Mechanical and Electrical branch, is under orders of transfer to the Chittagong Collegiate School. The pay of the post is Rs. 45 a month outside the grades, but the arrangement will not involve any loss to him as it is proposed to allow him to draw his grade pay up to 31st March, 1916, and thereafter to appoint him to a vacancy that will be available in the Subordinate Educational Service. He will in that event be given the same place in the grade that he at present enjoys. The other teacher of that branch—Babu Animesh Chandra Ghosh—has served for three years. He will be eligible for compensation gratuity if he cannot be provided with an appointment elsewhere. The two teachers in the Survey classes of the Dacca School of Engineering are eligible for compensation pension or gratuity in accordance with the Civil Service Regulations and their cases are now under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

House-searches Dacca.

XI. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the 18th November, 1915, Mr. Tegart, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, together with the District Superintendent of Police of Dacca, conducted a house-search at a place called Alur-Bazar in Dacca and took away quite a number of apparently innocent-looking articles on the strength of a search warrant which empowered them to search the house and seize arms, papers, documents and other articles or things relating to the alleged offence under section 395 of the Indian Penal Code.

(*b*) Is it a fact that, among the articles seized and carried away by the Police on the said occasion, there were, besides household utensils of every day use, pictures of Sri Chaitanya and Swami Vivekananda, a copy of "Gitanjali" and one of "Gora" by Sir Rabindranath Tagore, a biography of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, a copy of the late Mr. Keir Hardie's book "India", odd copies of newspapers and periodicals, treatises on English Grammar and Translation and a copy of a dictionary?

(*c*) If the answer to the foregoing question be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether there was any allegation that the articles mentioned formed part of the loot of the dacoity which occasioned the search?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of enunciating the principles on which seizures of literary masterpieces and sacred books and pictures are made in Bengal on the strength of search warrants?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) It is a fact that Messrs. Tegart and Bradley searched a house at No. 107, Alur Bazar, in Dacca on the 18th November, 1915, on the authority of a search warrant issued under section 96 of the Criminal Procedure Code in relation to the commission of an offence of dacoity.

(*b*) It is a fact that the articles mentioned in the question were taken away by the police from that house.

(*c*) No allegation was made that these articles formed part of the loot of the dacoity which occasioned the search.

(*d*) In this house two persons were found living in such suspicious circumstances that they were subsequently ordered to find security under section 109 of the Criminal Procedure Code. One of them (Anukul Chakravarty) at first refused to give his name or address or to answer any questions, but eventually gave a name and address which was found on subsequent inquiry to be correct. The other man (Bhuban Behari Bose) gave a name and address and an account of himself which Mr. Tegart believed to be false and which was subsequently found to be false. There were no other persons in the house in question except the two accused persons whose personal property was seized by the police for the purposes of the inquiry in which they were engaged under the law and especially of establishing the identity of the accused persons. There is no hard and fast rule about the seizure of documents, etc., for which a search is authorised under a warrant, and every case must be judged on its merits. It is frequently not possible to examine minutely all documents and books, etc., which may be found during such a search, and as they often contain names and other information necessary for the investigation, and as cryptic communications are often carried on between men of suspicious character with the help of apparently innocent works and printed matter, it is imparative to make a minute examination of all such papers before the connection of an accused person with a specific offence or his association with other suspects can be definitely established or negatived."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 2.

THE REVISED FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell presented the Revised Financial Statement.

Mr. Beatson Bell.

REVISED FINANCIAL STATEMENT, BENGAL, 1916-17.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

FINANCE.

Calcutta, the 11th March 1916.

MEMORANDUM.

In accordance with Rule 14 (1) and (2) of the Bengal Legislative (Financial Statement) Rules, 1912, published with Notification No. 4482 F., dated the 10th December 1912, the following memorandum is circulated indicating the alterations in the figures which have been made since the circulation of the Amended Draft Financial Statement, Bengal, for 1916-17. on the 4th instant.

2. The following changes have been made under the orders of the Government of India :—

REVISED ESTIMATE, 1915-16.

RECEIPTS.

IV—Stamps.—The revised estimate has been raised by four lakhs from Rs. 2,18,00,000 to Rs. 2,22,00,000 with reference to the actuals of the first eleven months of 1915-16. The Provincial share amounts to Rs. 1,11,00,000 or two lakhs more than the estimate previously adopted.

VIII—Income-tax.—The revised estimate has been raised by two lakhs or from Rs. 66,00,000 to Rs. 68,00,000 in view of the increase in the collections of February 1916. The Provincial share amounts to Rs. 34,00,000 or one lakh more than the estimate previously adopted.

CHARGES.

24—Medical.—The revised estimate has been raised by Rs. 1,15,000 for additional expenditure under Sanitation. The total grant under this head now stands at Rs. 27,52,000.

3. The above changes have raised the estimate of total receipts from Rs. 6,23,31,000 to Rs. 6,26,31,000 and of charges from Rs. 6,38,86,000 to Rs. 6,40,01,000. The closing balance will now stand at Rs 2,58,90,000.

BUDGET 1916-17.

RECEIPTS.

IV—Stamps.—The estimate has been raised by four lakhs from Rs. 2,20,00,000 to Rs. 2,24,00,000 in view of the increase in the revised estimate for 1915-16. The Provincial share will stand at Rs. 1,12,00,000 or two lakhs more than the estimate previously passed.

The total of Provincial receipts will now stand at Rs. 6,20,04,000 against Rs. 6,18,04,000 previously adopted.

Mr. Beatson Bell.

EXPENDITURE.

20—Police.—The estimate under this head has been raised by Rs. 1,50,000 for further police reforms. The total estimate under this head will now be Rs. 1,11,12,000.

24—Medical.—An additional provision of one lakh has been made under Sanitation and the total grant for this sub-head has been raised from 1½ to 2½ lakhs to provide additional funds for anti-malarial measures and other sanitary improvements. The total allotment under Medical now stands at Rs. 28,25,000.

4. The total charges for 1916-17 are now raised from Rs. 6,15,47,000 to Rs. 6,17,97,000 and the closing balance from Rs. 2,59,62,000 to Rs. 2,60,97,000, as shown below :—

	Revised Estimate, 1915-16.	Estimate, 1916-17.
	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	2,72,60,000	2,58,90,000
Receipts	6,26,31,000	6,20,04,000
Total ...	8,98,91,000	8,78,94,000
Charges	6,40,01,000	6,17,97,000
Closing balance	2,58,90,000	2,60,97,000

5. Copies of the revised Financial Statement are circulated herewith.

N. D. BEATSON BELL.

BUDGET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, 1916-17.

PART I.—General Review.

(1) ACCOUNTS FOR 1914-15.

In the revised estimate for 1914-15, which was laid before the Council on the 27th March 1915, the receipts of the year were taken at Rs. 6,20,06,000 and the charges at Rs. 6,56,86,000, while the estimated closing balance was Rs. 2,81,31,000. The accounts of the year, which have now been finally closed, show that the actual receipts amounted to Rs. 6,22,09,895 and the charges to Rs. 6,67,60,681, and the closing balance was Rs. 2,72,60,323. The receipts were thus better by Rs. 2,03,895, this improvement having occurred chiefly under Provincial Rates (Rs. 60,453), due to realization of arrear Public Works Cess; Income Tax (Rs. 42,305), owing to the continued prosperity of banks and industrial concerns in 1913-14; Jails (Rs. 1,03,256) on account of larger supplies of gunnies and other manufactures to the Military and other departments; and Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 92,750), owing to the sale of the old Presidency Jail buildings and the surplus profits of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway. The actual charges were also higher by Rs. 10,74,681, chiefly under Refunds and Drawbacks (Rs. 36,906), due to heavy refund of license fees for Excise shops towards the closing months of the year, and refund of Public Works Cess; Courts of Law (Rs. 71,200), on account of larger payments to pleaders and counsel in political cases; Education (Rs. 6,84,022), chiefly caused by the payment of Rs. 1,59,000 to the Calcutta University, being the unspent balance of the eight lakhs grant sanctioned for the acquisition of the fish market adjoining the University buildings, and by the payment of arrear salaries consequent on promotions to the Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services being sanctioned from 1912-13; and Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 8,81,625), due to larger expenditure in the latter part of the year and larger advance collection of road metal.

(2) REVISED ESTIMATE, 1915-16.

2. The revised estimate for 1915-16 as now passed, on the basis of the actuals of the first nine, ten or in some cases eleven, months of the current year, is compared below with the sanctioned estimate for the year :—

	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Better (+) or worse (−).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance ...	2,81,31,000	2,72,60,000	−8,71,000
Revenue receipts ...	5,61,40,000	5,68,16,000	+6,76,000
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial Revenues ...	+56,67,000	+58,15,000	+1,48,000
Total receipts ...	6,18,07,000	6,26,31,000	+8,24,000
Grand Total ...	8,99,38,000	8,98,91,000	−47,000
Total expenditure ...	6,58,29,000	6,40,01,000	+18,28,000
Closing balance ...	2,41,09,000	2,58,90,000	+17,81,000

Mr. Beatson Bell.

3. The increase under Transfer between Imperial and Provincial Revenues is due to the following additional assignments :—

	Rs.
Additional assignment for forms, etc., for the Assam Administration	+81,000
Assignment for forms, etc., for Bihar and Orissa	+45,000
Assignment to Bihar and Orissa in connection with training of shoals in the Ganges ...	-10,000
Reduction in the assignment from Bihar and Orissa in connection with fishery experiments	-7,000
Additional assignment in connection with scientific research by Dr. J. C. Bose ..	+31,000
Assignment for Archæological works ...	+8,000
Total ...	+1,48,000

4. The increase of revenue is the net result of increases under some heads and decreases under others. The improvements aggregate Rs. 24,21,000 ; and are chiefly under the following heads :—

Land Revenue—(Rs. 3,31,000), due to better collections of ordinary revenue and collections from Government estates owing to improvement in the jute trade, and to the sale of certain khas mahal lands to the Calcutta Improvement Trust.

Stamps—(Rs. 9,50,000), due to larger sales of both general and court-fee stamps owing to the partial recovery of trade as well as the opening of the Share Market which remained closed during the last few months of 1914-15.

Provincial Rates—(Rs. 1,15,000), due to collection of arrear Public Works Cess for 1912-13 and preceding years.

Income Tax—(Rs. 3,50,000), due to better collections from banks and industrial concerns than expected last year.

Registration—(Rs. 1,00,000), due to an increase in the number of registrations owing to the effects of flood and scarcity in certain tracts and the rise in prices.

Jails—(Rs. 1,73,000), due to larger supplies to the Military Department.

Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—(Rs. 1,67,000), chiefly under Cinchona plantation on account of larger sales of quinine.

Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department—(Rs. 1,75,000), mainly due to adjustment of the value of racks dismantled from the Secretariat buildings at Dacca and to the sale-proceeds of the Calcutta Police Office buildings.

The decrease, on the other hand, amounts to Rs. 17,15,000, and is mainly under the following heads :—

Excise—(Rs. 10,00,000), due to smaller consumption owing to high prices of food-grains, to scarcity in some areas and to economic conditions arising from the war.

Forests—(Rs. 3,25,000), caused by the slump in trade on account of the war and shortage in sales of timber in the Sunderbans, Jalpaiguri and Buxa on account of bad market conditions.

Courts of Law—(Rs. 73,000), mainly under General fees, fines and forfeitures.

Ports and Pilotage—(Rs. 2,05,000), due to smaller receipts from pilotage in the Port of Calcutta owing to the effect of the war on shipping.

Miscellaneous—(Rs. 60,000), chiefly under unclaimed deposits.

5. On the expenditure side the revised estimate shows a total decrease of Rs. 75,05,000, which is mainly under the following heads :—

Land Revenue—(Rs. 1,29,000), due to savings in the grants for salaries and Survey and Settlement charges and in the grant for the improvement of Government estates owing to the enforcement of economy.

Forests—(Rs. 46,000), mainly to curtailment of expenditure on communications, buildings and improvements, etc.

Ports and Pilotage—(Rs. 71,000), due to the dislocation of seaborne trade which reduced the earnings of pilots.

Education—(Rs. 16,01,000), due to savings in the Imperial grants for both recurring and non-recurring expenditure.

Medical—(Rs. 8,61,000), due to savings in the grant for works of sanitary improvement and non-utilization of the grant for equipment of the School of Tropical Medicine, and the transfer of a portion of the grant for sanitation to the heads Civil Works in charge of civil officers and the Public Works Department.

Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—(Rs. 11,000), due to savings in the grants (1) for supplies and services of the Cinchona Factory, (2) for Inspector of Factories, (3) for fishery experiments, and (4) for the charges of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

Superannuation—(Rs. 2,56,000), due to smaller payments for commutation of pensions and savings in the grant for retired allowances.

Stationery and Printing—(Rs. 70,000), due to savings partly in the Government presses and partly under stationery supplied from Central Stores.

Miscellaneous—(Rs. 3,58,000), chiefly due to the transfer of charges for grain allowance to the different departments by re-appropriation from the lump provision, and partly to the adjustment of grants made by His Excellency to the appropriate heads.

On the other hand, there was a total increase of expenditure of Rs. 16,77,000, of which the most noticeable items are :—

Courts of Law—(Rs. 4,16,000), due to larger payments to pleaders and counsel in connection with political and other cases and to charges under the Defence of India Act.

Jails—(Rs. 2,36,000) on account of increased expenditure under rations and larger purchase of raw materials for the manufacture of supplies to the Military Department.

Police—(Rs. 4,91,000), due to the debit of grain allowance charges by transfer from 32—Miscellaneous, and to larger expenditure on Supplies and Services and Contingencies of the District Police.

Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department—(Rs. 3,12,000), due to additional grants sanctioned for land acquisition and construction of buildings, for the Dacca University, Baker Hostel and Calcutta University Institute, and other works.

Civil Works in charge of the Civil Department—(Rs. 17,000), due to grants to local funds for works of sanitary improvements by transfer from Medical.

6. The net result of these changes is that the closing balance of 1915-16, which was estimated in March last at Rs. 2,41,09,000, is now placed at Rs. 2,58,90,000. The increase is chiefly due to smaller expenditure under Education, Medical and Superannuation as mentioned above, and partly to the special assignments mentioned in paragraph 3 and to increase of revenue under Stamps, Income Tax and Land Revenue.

(3) BUDGET ESTIMATE, 1916-17.

7. The opening balance of 1916-17 is the closing balance of 1915-16, and is therefore Rs. 2,58,90,000.

8. The estimates of the year as approved by the Government of India adopt Rs. 6,20,04,000, as receipts and Rs. 6,17,97,000 as expenditure, and

a closing balance of Rs. 2,60,97,000. A portion of the closing balance is earmarked for the following special expenditure :—

	Rs.
Minimum balance	20,00,000
Balance of discretionary grant	6,97,000
Balance of the Imperial grant for the reorganization of subordinate police and river police in Eastern Bengal (non-recurring) ...	10,77,000
Balance of the Imperial grant for the School of Tropical Medicine	13,000
Balance of the Imperial grant for Sanitation ...	55,20,000
Ditto ditto ditto Education ...	91,63,000
Ranchi Lunatic Asylum	25,00,000
Amount earmarked for Provincial equipments for three years as promised	24,00,000
Grant promised to the Belgachia Hospital ...	5,00,000
Total ...	2,41,70,000
This leaves a free balance, which could be spent in future years, of	19,27,000
Total ...	2,60,97,000

9. In the exceptional circumstances of the present year it has been found impossible to provide for the regrant of all the unexpended balances of the Imperial grants for Education, Sanitation, Police and the Discretionary grant. Under the orders of the Government of India the budget has been prepared on the principle that the Provincial balances would not be available for expenditure in 1916-17, while the total expenditure must be kept within the estimated revenue. The departmental budgets were, therefore, pruned to the utmost extent and no proposals for expenditure that could safely be postponed were admitted. The expenditure heads accordingly only provide for current normal expenditure and unavoidable expansion. Even the recurring grant for Education, which included the provision for the Dacca University (5 lakhs recurring and one lakh non-recurring for five years) has been omitted and a provision of 2½ lakhs only has been made in the budget for grants for sanitary improvements against 9½ lakhs, the recurring allotment. The total estimated charges for 1916-17, however, amount to Rs. 6,17,97,000, which is less than the income by Rs. 2,07,000; and provision has been made for the following noticeable non-recurring items :—

	Rs.
Grant for gratuitous relief	2,25,000
Non-recurring grant to the Police Department for Police buildings, etc., in connection with the reorganization of the Eastern Bengal Police and River Police (including works in progress)...	1,58,670
Non-recurring grant to the Education Department for expenditure on buildings (works in progress)	71,000
Salaries, establishment and other charges for the Press Censors	45,000
Charges under the Defence of India Act ...	1,00,000
Extra expenses for manning the steamer *Guide* while employed on station duty at Port Blair ...	20,000
Grant to the Calcutta University for hostels, being the unspent balance of the ten lakhs sanctioned by the Government of India	50,000
Additional grant to the Calcutta University to be given from the Provincial revenues... ...	2,23,000

10. A schedule is attached showing the new schemes costing individually more than Rs. 5,000 in any one year which have been included in

Mr. Beatson Bell.

the budget. The non-recurring charges on account of these scheme, amount to Rs. 3,19,133 and the recurring charges to Rs. 5,25,371. The budget includes, in addition, the following new items of a more or less petty nature :—

(*a*) NON-RECURRING CHARGES.

	Rs.
Land Revenue—	
Rewards for arrest of dacoits	3,000
Revision of the record-of-rights	9,000
Stamps—	
Regrant of savings in the grant for contract contingencies, Calcutta Collectorate	2,715
Forests—	
Purchase of an elephant for the Chittagong Hill Tracts Division to replace a casualty	4,000
Registration—	
Regrant of savings in the allotment for Stationery...	587
General Administration—	
Temporary establishment for the office of the Examiner of Local Funds Accounts	2,128
Balance of the non-recurring grant for the renewal of furniture of the several Government Houses ...	10,000
Charges for the distribution of the weekly war news	7,000
Lump provision for Additional Secretary ...	6,000
Increase in the Record-room grant of the Board of Revenue for sorting and distribution of records ...	3,000
Courts of Law—	
Regrant of savings in the allotment for contract contingencies of the Civil Courts	3,053
Police—	
Officer on special duty in the Criminal Investigation Department	4,500
Deputation of two Inspectors to the David Hare Training College	600
Supply of revolvers to Police Training Schools ...	2,000
Ports and Pilotage—	
Increase of mooring hire owing to war surtax ...	6,714
Education—	
Regrant of savings in the consolidated grant of the Presidency College	5,589
A temporary lecturer for Bethune College ...	1,500
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—	
Construction of a new bungalow for the Assistant Superintendent of Emigration at Goalundo ...	3,000
Removal of his office, etc., to a different site ...	700
Stationery and Printing—	
Regrant of savings in the grant for contract contingencies, Press and Forms Department	9,004
Miscellaneous—	
Subscription to the *Moslem Hitaishi*	9,516
Additional grant to the Lady Minto Nursing Association	2,100
Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers—	
Repairs to three cattle boats in Midnapore ...	850
Repairs to ferry platforms at Basirhat, Baduria and Itinda	1,200
Repairs to Government ferry ghât at Mymensingh	1,259
Repairs to approaches to Ranaghat, Hanskhali, Chuadanga, Gorai and other ferries	625

Mr. Beatson Bell.

(*b*) RECURRING CHARGES.

	Rs.
Stamps—	
Probate Deputy Collector	4,800
Excise—	
Probationary Superintendent, Calcutta	1,800
Opium rewards in Calcutta	7,000
Ditto in districts	18,000
Registration—	
One Additional Inspector of Registration Offices ...	3,600
General Administration—	
Local allowance of the Inspector of Local Accounts	600
Additional establishment for the Revenue Department of the Secretariat	4,800
Courts of Law—	
One Additional Interpreter for the High Court, Original Side	1,500
Two probationary officers for the Detention House for Juvenile Offenders	1,200
Jails—	
Increasing the rate of diet of prisoners in the Calcutta Police Lock-up	1,200
Revision of the pay of compounders	948
Police—	
Appointment of six additional clerks for the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta	3,720
One Sergeant as driver of the motor prison van ...	1,200
One Supervisor for the Police Dead House ...	1,200
House allowance of the Supervisor of the Police Dead House	600
One additional Inspector and one additional Sub-Inspector for the Finger Print Bureau ...	4,500
Rent of additional telephone lines (alarm bells) in Calcutta	3,800
Clerical and menial establishment of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Burdwan Range ...	2,050
Additional staff for Navinagar Police station, Tippera	1,524
Telephone connection at Asansol	770
Allowances to sub-assistant surgeons in dual charges of Police and Jail hospitals (Police share)	1,560
Policing the Bally-Burdwan Chord line (Government share)	900
Raising the strength of the Volunteer Armoury Guard at Ramna and Chasara	990
Raising the training capacity of the Berhampore School	2,236
Two extra sergeants for duty at the gate of Government House, Darjeeling	1,833
Appointment of a second head-constable for the frontier guard at Chamurchi and Jaigaon, Jalpaiguri	682
Allowance to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon of Barrackpore Cantonment Hospital for treating the men of the Armed Police Reserve	300
Ports and Pilotage—	
Two additional clerks for the branch Shipping Office, Kidderpore	720
Increase in the expenses of leadsmen-apprentices on joining and leaving outward-bound vessels ...	1,920

	Rs.
Education—	
Rent of telephone lines for the use of Inspectors of Schools	1,050
Fees to the professors of Rajshahi and Chittagong Colleges for giving law lectures	4,000
French Mistress, Dow Hill School	1,800
Two governesses for Dinajpur and Pabna zenana classes	1,200
One Lecturer on Accountancy in the Commercial School	3,000
Medical—	
Local allowance for Civil Surgeon of Alipur for charge of the Venereal Hospital	1,800
Clinical Laboratory assistant for the Medical College	1,020
Increase of pay of anæsthetist of the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital	600
Lady doctor for the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital	960
Appointment of two Laboratory assistants in the Medical College	1,056
Agriculture—	
Appointment of a Deputy Superintendent for the Veterinary Department	2,400
Appointment of two additional Overseers in the Burirhat and Rangpur dairy farms	720
Rates and taxes of the Rangpur farms owing to their inclusion within the municipal area	620
Appointment of five clerks and five servants for the Divisional Seed Stores	2,400
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—	
Provision for travelling allowance of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars	1,000
Stationery and Printing—	
Increase of pay of the Deputy Superintendent of the Secretariat Press	600

*11. Appendix C shows the transactions of District Funds and District Road Fund, Darjeeling. This statement does not form any part of the Provincial Budget, but is annexed thereto for convenience of reference.

PART II.—Detailed remarks on the Budget for 1916-17.

RECEIPTS.

12. *Land Revenue.*—The total collections in 1911-15 amounted to Rs. 2,82,67,073, and the estimate for 1916-17, as passed by the Government of India, is Rs. 2,97,99,000 against Rs. 2,92,28,000. the revised estimate for 1915-16. The estimate includes Rs. 22,78,000 for recoveries of Survey and Settlement charges against Rs. 13,75,000, provided on the same account in the revised estimate for 1915-16.

13. The estimated Provincial share of Land Revenue is calculated thus :—

	Estimate, 1915-16.	Revised estimate, 1915-16.	Estimate, 1916-17.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Gross Land Revenue ...	2,91,49,000	2,92,28,000	2,97,99,000
Deduct—Estimated collections from Government Estates (wholly Provincial) ...	44,37,000	46,00,000	45,00,000
Deduct—Recoveries of cost of maintenance of boundary pillars (wholly Provincial)	.....	3,000	4,000
Deduct—Recoveries of Survey and Settlement Charges (wholly Imperial) ...	17,92,000	13,75,000	22,78,000
Total deduction ...	62,29,000	59,78,000	67,82,000

* This item did not appear in the Revised Financial Statement as presented in Council on the 13th March, 1916, but was inserted in the Budget form of the Statement presented to the Council on the 27th March, 1916.

Mr. Beatson Bell.

	Estimate, 1915-16.	Revised estimate, 1915-16.	Estimate, 1916-17.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Net amount divisible between Imperial and Provincial revenues	2,29,20,000	2,32,50,000	2,30,17,000
Provincial share, one-half ...	1,14,60,000	1,16,25,000	1,15,08,000
Add—Collections from Government Estates (wholly Provincial)	44,37,000	46,00,000	45,00,000
Add—Recoveries of cost of maintenance of boundary pillars (wholly Provincial)	.....	3,000	4,000
Total Provincial receipts	1,58,97,000	1,62,28,000	1,60,12,000

14. *Stamps.*—The Budget estimate of the total revenue from Stamps for 1915-16 was passed by the Government of India at Rs. 2,03,00,000. The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 2,02,68,265, while those in the first eleven months of 1915-16 exclusive of receipts on account of unified stamps used as receipt stamps, exceeded the figures of the corresponding period of the preceding year by Rs. 17,51,000. In view of these figures and in consideration of further adjustment between the Postal and the Stamp Departments of receipts from the sale of unified stamps, the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been provisionally placed at Rs. 2,22,00,000. On account of the large increase anticipated in 1915-16, it is not safe to provide for a large increase in 1916-17; and since the sale of court-fee stamps in Calcutta will be affected by the creation of the new Patna High Court, allowance has been made for a small increase of two lakhs and the estimate for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 2,24,00,000. The Provincial share is one-half and amounts to Rs. 1,11,00,000 for 1915-16 and Rs. 1,12,00,000 for 1916-17.

15. *Excise.*—The total collections under this head in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 1,53,74,624 and the estimate for 1915-16 was passed by the Government of India at Rs. 1,60,00,000. The actuals in the first eleven months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 4,45,000 as compared with those of the corresponding period of the preceding year, and the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been placed at Rs. 1,50,00,000. The revenue under this head depends mostly on the economic condition of the people. This has been largely affected by the war. The jute trade has been slightly better than during the last year, but agricultural distress has occurred in some districts owing to drought or flood. During the continuance of the war the receipts under this head are not expected to rise and the estimate for 1916-17 was provisionally passed for the same amount as the revised estimate for 1915-16. But the new taxation on liquors recently imposed will bring in an increase of Rs. 50,000 in 1916-17 and the total estimate has been placed at Rs. 1,50,70,000. The receipts under this head are wholly Provincial.

16. *Provincial Rates.*—The collections from the Public Works cess have been surrendered to District Boards since the year 1913-14, but the arrears of 1912-13 and the preceding year are still under collection. They amounted to Rs. 1,15,416 in the first ten months of 1915-16 and are expected to be Rs. 1,25,000 by the close of the year. Nothing is expected to be left for collection in 1916-17. Under General Rates for the management of private estates the estimate for 1915-16 is Rs. 1,10,000, but in view of the decrease in the collections in the first nine months of the current year, the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 1,00,000 and the estimate for 1916-17 at Rs. 1,04,000.

17. *Income Tax.*—The receipts under this head in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 69 84,610 and the estimate for 1915-16 as passed by the Government of India was Rs. 61,00,000. The actual collections in the first eleven months of 1915-16, however, show a decrease of

Rs. 1,40,000, as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year; and the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been placed at Rs. 68,00,000. Owing to the continuance of the war, the conditions of trade are unfavourable and no increase in collections can be expected next year, as the assessment for 1916-17 will be based on the profits of 1915-16. The estimate for 1916-17 was originally passed for Rs. 66,00,000, but additional taxation imposed by the Government of India as shown below is expected to bring in an increase of revenue of Rs. 40,80,000 and the total estimate for 1916-17 has now been placed at Rs. 1,06,80,000. The Provincial share is one-half and amounts to Rs. 31,00,000 for 1915-16 and Rs. 53,40,000 for 1916-17 :—

Incomes from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 9,999 a year will pay 6 pies in the rupee instead of 5 pies.

Incomes from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 24,999 a year will pay 9 pies in the rupee instead of 5 pies.

Incomes of Rs. 25,000 a year and above will pay one anna in the rupee instead of 5 pies.

The enhanced rates will apply generally to profits of companies and interest on securities, which will be taxed initially at the highest rate subject to abatement or reduction in the case of persons who can show that their total income is such as to warrant a lower rate of taxation or is below the taxable limit.

18. *Forests.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 11,50,000 against Rs. 13,04,496, the actuals of 1914-15. The actual collections in the first eleven months of 1915-16 show a large decrease of Rs. 1,47,000 as compared with those of the corresponding period of the previous year, and the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 11,25,000. The decrease is chiefly due to shortage in sales of timber in the Sundarbans and reduced sales owing to the war. The estimate for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 11,50,000, as increased sales are expected in Buxa, Jalpaiguri and the Sundarbans.

19. *Registration.*—The receipts under this head in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 18,12,868 and the estimate for 1915-16 was passed by the Government of India for Rs. 19,00,000. The actual collections in the first ten months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 1,70,292, as compared with those of the corresponding period of the previous year; agricultural distress in certain districts has increased registrations, and the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 20,00,000, and, in consideration of a probable increase of Rs. 50,000, the estimate for 1916-17 has been passed for Rs. 20,50,000.

20. *Interest.*—The estimate of loans, as submitted to the Government of India, provides for a return in the way of interest during 1916-17 of Rs. 6,40,000 against Rs. 5,13,000, the revised estimate for 1915-16, as shown below :—

	Revised estimate, 1915-16. Rs	Estimate, 1916-17. Rs.
Interest on advances to cultivators, etc.	1,02,000	1,40,000
Interest on advances to Co-operative Credit Societies	2,000	2,000
Interest on drainage and embankment advances	1,000	19,000
Interest on loans to landholders ...	1,92,000	2,08,000
„ „ „ to municipalities and District Boards, etc. ...	2,16,000	2,80,000
Total ...	5,13,000	6,40,000
Miscellaneous	23,000	14,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	5,36,000	6,54,000

Mr. Beatson Bell.

The increase under "Interest on loans to Municipalities and District Boards" is due to the anticipated realization of interest from the District Board of the 24-Parganas on the Magra Hât Drainage loan; this work has now been completed. The revised estimate under "Miscellaneous" includes Rs. 10,000 for interest on arrears of Public Works Cess not yet paid.

21. *Law and Justice—Courts of Law.*—The total collections in 1914-15 under this head amounted to Rs. 8,60,139 and the estimate for 1915-16 was passed by the Government of India at Rs. 9,13,000. The actuals in the first ten months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 12,914, chiefly under "General fees and fines, etc.," and the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been placed at Rs. 8,40,000. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 8,30,000. The decrease is due to the transfer of a portion of the fees and miscellaneous receipts of the High Court, Calcutta, to the new Patna High Court.

22. *Jails.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 8,31,256 and those in the first ten months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 1,26,694 over those of the corresponding period of last year, chiefly on account of larger supplies to the Military Department. The budget estimate for 1915-16 has accordingly been raised from Rs. 7,60,000 to Rs. 9,33,000. As it is not anticipated that the supplies to the Military Department will continue to be as large during the coming year, the estimate for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 8,02,000.

23. *Police.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 1,77,119 and the receipts in the first nine months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 23,114, chiefly under Miscellaneous and Presidency Police, due to fewer supplies to private persons, and the revised estimate has been reduced from Rs. 1,86,000 to Rs. 1,57,000. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 1,67,000.

24. *Ports and Pilotage.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 16,20,000 against Rs. 15,52,988, the actuals of 1914-15. The actuals of the first ten months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 1,29,118 as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year, chiefly under Calcutta Pilotage Receipts due to a reduction in the number of vessels entering and leaving the Port of Calcutta in consequence of the dislocation of trade caused by the war. In view of this decrease the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been placed at Rs. 14,15,000 and the estimate for 1916-17 at Rs. 14,25,000.

25. *Education.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 8,86,000 against Rs. 8,17,110, the actuals of 1914-15. The actual collections in the first nine months show an increase of Rs. 27,302 as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year, chiefly under "Schools general," owing to the opening of the residential school at Hastings House, and the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 8,77,000. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed at Rs. 9,05,000 and includes larger collections from schools—General and Special, but chiefly from the above mentioned school.

26. *Medical.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 3,94,558, but the collections in the first nine months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 32,822, chiefly under "medicines sold by Civil Surgeons, and hospital receipts." The budget estimate for 1915-16 has therefore been reduced from Rs. 3,80,000 to Rs. 3,59,000 in the revised estimate. The estimate for 1916-17 has however been placed at Rs. 3,81,000 as larger receipts are expected from contributions. The Indian Research Fund Association has promised a grant of Rs. 1,000 per month for the establishment, etc., employed in the investigation into the causation and prevalence of diabetes in India by Major D. McCay, I.M.S., Professor of Physiology, Medical College, Calcutta.

27. *Agriculture.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 82,000, but the actuals in 1914-15 were Rs. 71,678 and those in the first nine months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 16,841 over those of the corresponding period of last year; the revised estimate for 1915-16 has therefore been placed at Rs. 84,000. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed

at Rs. 94,000 and provides for a growth in the revenue from agricultural farms, especially the Rangpur farm.

28. *Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 3,53,000 against Rs. 1,61,291, the actuals of 1914-15. The collections from the sale of cinchona and its preparations in the first nine months show an increase of Rs. 47,020 over those of the corresponding period of the previous year and the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been raised to Rs. 5,20,000. The estimate for 1916-17 amounts to Rs. 5,22,000.

29. *Receipts in aid of Superannuation.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 10,000, but in view of the actuals of 1914-15 amounting to Rs. 58,567 and those of the first nine months of 1915-16 amounting to Rs. 37,793, the revised estimate for the current year has been placed at Rs. 57,000. The estimate for 1916-17 has however been placed at Rs. 56,000.

30. *Stationery and Printing.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 1,49,601, while the budget for 1915-16 was Rs. 1,32,000. This has been reduced to Rs. 1,16,000 in the revised estimate with reference to the actuals of the first nine months of the current year, which show a decrease of Rs. 31,309 as compared with those of the corresponding period of the previous year. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed at Rs. 1,27,000

31. *Miscellaneous.*—The estimate under this head was Rs 6,90,000 (including Rs. 5,80,000 from unclaimed deposits) against Rs. 6,71,057, the actuals of 1914-15. In the revised estimate the budget has been reduced to Rs. 6,30,000 as the total unclaimed deposits in 1915-16 are not expected to exceed Rs 5,25,000. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed for Rs. 6,52,000 and includes Rs. 5,50,000 for unclaimed deposits.

32. *Irrigation. Major Works (Direct Receipts).*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 2,40,000 against Rs. 2,53,962, the actuals of 1914-15. The actual collections in the first ten months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 7,000, and both the revised estimate for the current year and the estimate for 1916-17 have been placed at Rs. 2,57,000. The Provincial share is one-half and amounts to Rs. 1,29,000.

33. *Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 5,70,000 against Rs. 4,86,166, the actuals of 1914-15, and Rs. 5,65,040, those of 1913-14. The actual collections in the first nine months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 1,03,248 as compared with the figures of the corresponding period of 1914-15. A large increase is expected from the Madaripur Bhil route, and both the revised estimate for the current year and estimate for 1916-17 have been passed at Rs. 6,20,000. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 3,10,000.

34. *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 1,25,000. The actual collections of the first nine months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 35,965 over those of the corresponding period of last year. The increase is due to the adjustment of the value of racks dismantled from the Secretariat buildings at Dacca. The market value of these racks was credited to this head by debit to stock. There is also a special receipt of Rs. 35,000 from the sale of the Lal Bazar Police buildings which have been demolished and sold. The revised estimate for 1915-16 has accordingly been placed at Rs. 6,00,000 against Rs. 5,62,750, the actuals of 1914-15. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 1,30,000.

35. *Transfers between Imperial and Provincial Revenues.*—The estimate includes the following transfers from Imperial Revenues :—

	1915-16.		1916-17.
	Budget.	Revised.	Budget.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Contribution for Famine Relief Scheme	60,000	60,000	60,000
Grants to Calcutta Improvement Trust	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000

Mr. Beatson Bell.

	1915-16. Budget. Rs.	1915-16. Revised Rs.	1916-17. Budget Rs.
Assignment for remission of appropriations of Public Works Cess	21,93,000	21,93,000	21,93,000
Grant for Sanitary Improvements	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000
Contribution to meet charges of Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland's deputation for serological enquiry	35,000	35,000	35,000
Grant of one-half of the salaries of Health Officers in municipalities	39,000	39,000	39,000
Contribution to meet the cost of Indian Deputy Sanitary Commissioners	19,000	19,000	19,000
For the Belgachia Veterinary College	30,000	30,000	30,000
For provincialisation of salaries of the Civil Veterinary Department	29,000	29,000	29,000
Contribution from Bihar and Orissa in connection with Fishery experiments ...	9,000	2,000	6,000
Grant for Dacca University ...	15,000	15,000	15,000
Non-recurring grant for Dacca University for five years from 1914-15	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000
Grant for aided English Secondary Schools	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000
Grant to the Church Missionary Society College, Calcutta	6,000	6,000	6,000
Grant for the extension of education among poorer classes of the domiciled community, Calcutta... ...	40,000	40,000	40,000
Grant for the improvement of female education ...	30,000	30,000	30,000
Grant for the development of the work of the Calcutta University	65,000	65,000	65,000
Grants for Education ...	22,20,000	22,20,000	22,20,000
.. for Popular Education	25,000	25,000	25,000
Further grant for education ...	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000
Assignment in connection with Scientific Research by Dr. J. C. Bose	9,000	40,000	32,000
For forms, etc., for the Assam Administration	1,05,000	1,86,000	1,50,000
For forms, etc., for the Bihar and Orissa Government ...	.....	45,000	.....
Grant to the Chittagong Port Fund for five years from 1913-14	75,000	75,000	75,000
For adjustment of recovery claims of charges incurred by the Agent, Government Consignments	11,000	11,000	11,000
For cost of transmission of records by the revised procedure introduced under the Court Fees Act ...	6,000	6,000	6,000
For pension of title-holders ...	3,000	3,000	3,000
For remission of certain recoveries from local bodies ...	26,000	26,000	26,000
For Archæological expenditure	.....	8,000	.....

Mr. Beatson Bell.

	1915-16 Budget. Rs.	1915-16 Revised Rs.	1916-17 Budget. Rs.
For the amalgamation of the office of the Art Section of the Indian Museum with the Calcutta School of Art ...	1,000	1,000	1,000
For Traffic Registration Office, Bhairab Bazar	1,000	1,000	1,000
Contribution from the Bihar and Orissa Government towards the pay of the electrical staff	8,000	8,000	8,000
Total ...	64,40,000	65,98,000	65,05,000

The estimate also includes the following transfers from Provincial to Imperial Revenues :—

	Budget, 1915-16. Rs.	Revised, 1915-16. Rs.	Budget, 1916-17. Rs.
Fixed adjustment under Provincial Settlement ...	7,28,000	7,28,000	7,28,000
Grant to Bihar and Orissa Government for grants to colleges	21,000	21,000	21,000
Grant to Bihar and Orissa for law charges formerly paid by this Government ...	15,000	15,000	15,000
Grant in connection with training of shoals in the Ganges	.....	10,000	12,000
Adjustment for premises No. 9, Hare Street	9,000	9,000	9,000
Assignment to Bihar and Orissa for the new Patna High Court	.....	.....	2,00,000
Revenue from new taxation under Excise and Income Tax (Provincial share) transferred to Imperial	.....	.....	20,90,000
Total ...	7,73,000	7,83,000	30,75,000

The net assignments from Imperial Revenues are therefore :—

	1915-16. Budget. Rs.	1915-16. Revised Rs.	Budget. 1916-17. Rs.
From Imperial to Provincial ...	+64,40,000	+65,98,000	+65,05,000
From Provincial to Imperial ...	- 7,73,000	- 7,83,000	- 30,75,000
Net ...	56,67,000	58,15,000	34,30,000

EXPENDITURE.

36. *Refunds and Drawbacks.*—The total Provincial expenditure in 1915-16 was originally estimated at Rs. 1,41,000, but in view of the actuals of the first nine months of the year this has been raised to Rs. 1,82,000 in the revised estimate for the year against Rs. 2,00,906, the actuals of 1914-15. The increase is due to special refunds of license fees of excise shops in Calcutta. The budget for 1916-17 has been passed at Rs. 1,50,000 based, as usual, on the average actuals of the past three years, excluding special payments.

37. *Assignments and Compensations.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 42,000, but this has been reduced to Rs. 31,000 in the revised estimate with reference to the actuals of 1914-15, amounting to Rs. 34,273,

and the actuals of the first nine months of 1915-16 showing a decrease of Rs. 5,528. The budget for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 35,000. The variations are under *Malikana*, which is always an uncertain item.

38. *Land Revenue.*—The total provincial expenditure for 1916-17 is estimated at Rs. 31,52,000 against Rs. 35,37,000, the revised, and Rs. 36,66,000 the budget estimate for 1915-16, as shown below:—

	1915-16		1916-17.
	Budget	Revised	Budget.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Charges of District Administration ...	28,48,000	27,98,000	28,18,000
(2) Charges on account of Land Revenue collections	24,000	14,000	15,000
(3) Management of Government Estates ...	5,28,000	4,98,000	4,19,000
(4) Survey and Settlement...	2,00,000	1,62,000	1,00,000
(5) Land Records ...	66,000	65,000	70,000
Total ...	36,66,000	35,37,000	31,52,000

The decrease in the revised under (1) is due to savings under Salaries. The estimate for 1916-17 includes provision for one additional Magistrate, three Joint-Magistrates and eight Assistant Magistrates; additional grants for travelling allowances of officers and for diet and travelling allowances to witnesses. The decrease under (3) is on account of a reduced grant for improvements in Government estates, and that under (4) is due to postponement of new operations.

39. *Stamps.*—The sanctioned estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 6,05,000, which has been raised to Rs. 6,30,000 in the revised owing to larger issues of stamp paper from the Central Stores following the increase of sales. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 6,96,000 and provides for larger issues of stamp paper and discount for the sale of general stamps. It also includes the pay of the newly appointed Probate officer in the Calcutta Collectorate. The charges of this Department are divided equally between the Imperial and Provincial revenues, and the Provincial shares amount to Rs. 3,15,000 and Rs. 3,48,000, respectively.

40. *Excise.*—The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 8,39,000 as compared with Rs. 8,03,000, the revised estimate for 1915-16, and Rs. 7,17,585, the actuals of 1914-15. The increase in 1915-16 over the preceding year is due to the reorganization of the Department and its amalgamation with the Salt Department. Under the present arrangement the expenditure of the two Departments is being debited to this head in the first instance and a fixed sum of two lakhs will be transferred to the head "5—Salt—(Imperial)" at the end of the year. Full provision has been made in the budget for the revised establishment, but a saving has been anticipated as the full number of officers will not be entertained during the year.

41. *Income Tax.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 1,52,000 and this has been repeated as the estimate for 1916-17. The revised estimate for 1915-16 has, however, been placed at Rs. 1,54,000 with reference to the actuals of the first nine months. The increase has been caused by the payment of leave allowances in Calcutta. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 76,000 for 1916-17 and Rs. 77,000 for 1915-16.

42. *Forests.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 6,66,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 6,20,000 with reference to the actuals of the first nine months. The decrease is due to curtailment of expenditure on communications and buildings. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 6,54,000 and includes Rs. 4,000 for the purchase of an elephant for the Chittagong Hill Tracts Division to replace a casualty.

43. *Registration.*—The estimate for 1915-16 is Rs. 11,23,000, but in the revised this has been reduced to Rs. 11,22,000 with reference to

the actuals of the first nine months of the year. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 11,09,000 and provides for no new expenditure.

44. *Interest on Ordinary Debt.*—This is interest payable from the Provincial revenues to the Imperial Government on the amount advanced by the latter to the Provincial Government for loans to cultivators, for advances to co-operative societies, for advances on drainage and embankment schemes, and for loans to notabilities, municipalities (excluding presidency corporations) and district boards.

45. *General Administration.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 23,71,000, but in the revised estimate this has been raised to Rs. 24,06,000. The increase is chiefly under Civil Secretariat, due to the adjustment of the charges of the Press Censor to this head instead of to the head "32—Miscellaneous—War Charges," and to larger expenditure under Staff and Household of the Governor owing to the debit to this sub-head of the charges for rates and taxes of Government houses. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed at Rs. 24,36,000. It includes provision for the Press Censor (Rs. 15,000); for rates and taxes of Government houses (Rs. 38,356); and the balance of the non-recurring grant for furniture of Government houses (Rs. 10,000).

46. *Law and Justice—Courts of Law.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 1,01,21,000, but the revised estimate has been raised to Rs. 1,05,10,000 with reference to the actual charges of the first nine months of the year. The increase was partly under "Law Officers," due to large payments of lawyers' fees in connection with political cases, and partly under "Civil and Sessions Courts," caused by the appointment of additional District and Sessions Judges, by charges under the Defence of India Act in connection with political cases, and by the payment of grain compensation allowance for which provision was made under "32—Miscellaneous." The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 1,00,20,000. The decrease is due to provision having been made for 13 instead of 19 judges of the High Court and some reduction in the establishment and contingent charges of the Appellate Side, owing to the creation of a separate High Court at Patna. The budget includes the following provisions :—

	Rs.
Contract allowance of Rs. 1,000 a month to Mr. Haydn for the supply of typewritten transcripts of the evidence of witnesses given in one court of the Calcutta High Court ...	12,000
Additional Legal Remembrancer and his establishment and contingencies	35,000
Additional grant for fees to pleaders in criminal cases in the mufassil	55,000
Two probationary officers for the Juvenile Court and Detention House for Juvenile Offenders ...	1,200
Four posts of District and Sessions Judges sanctioned by the Secretary of State ...	1,16,107
Establishment for ditto	12,000
Additional grant for allowances to jurors and assessors	7,000
Additional grant for diet and travelling expenses of witnesses	10,000

47. *Jails.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 21,95,000 against Rs. 23,50,828, the actuals of 1914-15. In view of the actuals of the first nine months of 1915-16, the revised estimate for the year has been raised to Rs. 24,31,000. The increase is due to larger charges for diet and for the purchase of clothing owing to a greater influx of prisoners and also to larger outlay on raw materials and European stores for manufactures required by the Military Department. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 25,50,000. It includes larger provision for dieting charges; a lump provision of Rs. 50,000 for revision of the warders' establishment, and Rs. 25,000 for temporary accommodation required in the several jails to meet overcrowded conditions.

Mr. Beatson Bell.

48. *Police.*—The following table compares the charges under this head :—

HEADS.	Actuals, 1914-15.	1915-16.		Estimate, 1916-17.
		Budget.	Revised.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Presidency Police ..	17,42,163	17,45,000	18,29,000	18,47,000
Superintendence ...	3,07,944	2,34,000	3,04,000	2,97,000
Criminal Investigation Department ...	5,39,973	5,31,000	5,68,000	5,94,000
District Executive Force	71,24,841	73,87,000	76,10,000	77,01,000
Village Police ...	5,907	8,000	27,000	6,000
Special ,, ...	3,02,192	3,01,000	3,24,000	3,19,000
Railway ,, ...	3,46,232	3,25,000	3,60,000	3,45,000
Cattle-pounds ...	132	250	500	250
Refunds	2,861	3,750	3,500	3,000
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—250
Total ...	1,03,72,545	1,05,35,000	1,10,26,000	1,11,12,000

In view of the actuals of the first nine months of 1915-16, the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 1,10,26,000. The increase is mainly due to the adjustment of charges on account of grain compensation allowance by transfer from "32—Miscellaneous," and partly also to the appointment of another Deputy Inspector-General and the deputation of officers to special duty. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 1,11,12,000 and includes the following charges :—

	Rs.
Additional European police for duty in trading quarters, Calcutta	26,260
Creation of a 3rd Armed Company in Calcutta ...	25,000
Entertainment of temporary clerks in the offices of the Inspector-General and Deputy Inspector-General of Police	10,740
Deputation of Mr. F. D. Bartley as Intelligence officer	11,280
Buildings in connection with the scheme for the reorganization of the subordinate police ...	1,58,670
Revision of the scale of armourers in the Civil Police and their allowances	2,500
Supply of extra arms for police stations, headquarters force and training schools ...	5,000
Entertainment of two circle inspectors for Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions in Bakarganj	7,003
Grant of a local allowance of Re. 1 to constables of both armed and unarmed branches posted on duty to Calcutta, Alipore, Sealdah, Belliaghatta and Chitpur	8,421
Reorganization of the River Police in Eastern Bengal	60,000
Settlement of Karwal Nuts	3,600
Appointment of an additional Inspector and a Sub-Inspector for the Finger Print Bureau ...	4,500
Increased grant for revision of boat establishment in the Eastern Bengal districts	48,121
Additional staff for Navinagar Police station, Tippera	1,524
Lump provision for further police reforms ...	1,50,000

Mr. Bratson Bell.

	Rs.
Policing of the Bally-Burdwan chord line of the East Indian Railway	3,000
Revising the training capacity of Berhampore School	2,256
Guard for shell factories	6,330
Supply of arms to the Calcutta Police Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors	5,646
Reorganization of the Eastern Bengal Railway Police	8,000

49. *Ports and Pilotage.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 14,76,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 11,05,000, due to less payments to pilots owing to the partial suspension of trade. The estimate for 1916-17 amounts to Rs. 13,30,000 and generally follows the revised, with reduced grants for victualling officers and men afloat and for the purchase of marine stores. It includes Rs. 1,50,000 for a grant to the Chittagong Port Trust and Rs. 20,000 for charges for the hire of vessels for towing the yacht *Rhotas* during His Excellency's river tours.

50. *Education.*—The following table shows the charges under this head since 1911-12 :—

Heads.	Actuals.				1915-16		Budget, 1916-17.
	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14	1914-15	Budget.	Revised.	
University	66,028	5,15,000	1,18,500	2,73,960	1,15,000	1,15,000	1,15,000
Direction	2,17,189	1,78,080	1,51,032	1,62,563	1,58,000	1,68,000	1,52,000
Inspection	8,01,480	7,82,598	7,83,208	9,53,956	8,00,000	9,23,000	8,95,000
Government Colleges General	8,17,976	8,50,209	8,55,924	10,04,105	9,12,000	9,68,000	9,36,000
Government Colleges, Professional	3,35,128	1,00,575	3,57,324	3,61,112	3,54,000	3,78,000	3,62,000
Government Schools, General	14,38,548	19,81,325	22,81,411	21,25,229	11,97,000	18,12,000	13,08,000
Government Schools, Special	5,75,620	5,98,133	5,78,827	6,77,468	6,09,000	7,39,000	6,81,000
Grants-in-aid ...	14,28,691	17,21,594	20,99,939	31,11,918	25,06,000	30,25,000	17,53,000
Scholarships	2,19,049	2,24,109	2,11,638	2,11,616	2,41,000	2,37,000	2,44,000
Miscellaneous ...	2,17,307	1,20,518	6,42,201	3,13,636	1,11,000	1,80,000	1,91,000
Refunds	2,451	1,097	2,512	1,479	3,000	2,000	2,000
Expenditure from the non-recurring assignment of 75 lakhs	...	...	...	...	8,00,000	11,000	71,000
Lump provision for improving popular education ...	...	...	...	...	9,25,000	1,32,000	9,25,000
Lump provision for secondary education ...	...	...	...	...	1,50,000	...	1,50,000
Lump provision for female education (recurring) ...	...	...	...	..	30,000	27,000	30,000
Expenditure of the recurring grant	...	...	...	...	13,20,000	2,00,000	8,20,000
Further recurring grant ...	...	...	...	...	1,50,000	44,000	1,50,000
Dacca University and hostels (non-recurring) ...	...	...	...	...	1,00,000	...	...
Dacca University and hostels (recurring) ...	...	...	...	...	45,000	...	45,000
Total ...	61,21,873	73,76,829	81,12,515	92,07,022	1,05,62,000	89,61,000	88,30,000

The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 1,05,62,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 89,61,000 with reference to the actuals of the first nine months of the year. The decrease is chiefly due to the non-utilization to the full extent of the Imperial grants, and to the transfer of some grants to the Public Works Department for the construction of buildings, chiefly the Dacca University, the University Institute Calcutta,

the Baker Madrassa Hostel and the *guru*-training schools in Thakurgaon and other places. The budget for 1916-17 includes the following items :—

	Rs.
Balance of the grant to the Calcutta University for hostel buildings (Rs. 10 lakhs) sanctioned by the Government of India	50,000
Additional grant to the Calcutta University for hostels in addition to the 10 lakhs sanctioned by the Government of India	2,23,000
Grant for the completion of the buildings in progress in 1915-16 which cannot be met from the Public Works Department grant	71,000
Reorganization of the clerical establishment in the office of the Director of Public Instruction ...	5,388
Inspectors for Muhammadan Education ...	25,860
Additional grant for travelling allowances of Inspectors, Assistant, Deputy and Sub-Inspectors, and their establishments	26,000
Regrant of savings out of the consolidated grant of the Presidency College	5,589
Temporary lecturer for the Bethune College ...	1,500
Fees to Professors at Chittagong and Rajshahi Colleges for law lectures	1,000
Provision for Hastings House School	58,030
A French mistress for Dow Hill School ...	1,800
Two governesses for Dinajpur and Palma zenana classes	1,200
Provision for additional stipends to pupils in *guru*-training schools	30,000
One Lecturer on Accountancy in the Government Commercial School	3,000
Grant for Scientific Research by Dr. J. C. Bose, including his allowances, etc.	60,100

The Imperial grants are likely to be expended in 1915-16 thus :—

	Grant.	Probable Expenditure in 1915-16.		Total probable expenditure.
		Under Education.	Under Civil Works.	
Non-recurring.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Lump grant to the Calcutta University ...	10,00,000	9,50,000	.....	9,50,000
Lump grant for expenditure	8,00,000	1,42,000	3,76,000	5,18,000
Dacca University Hostels	1,00,000	.....	.....	.....
Recurring.				
Lump grant for expenditure for improving popular education ...	9,25,000	8,68,000	11,000	8,79,000
Lump grant ...	13,20,000	6,32,000	4,75,000	11,07,000
Grant for Secondary education	1,50,000	1,50,000	.....	1,50,000
Grant for female education	30,000	30,000	.....	30,000
Further grant ...	1,50,000	1,46,000	.....	1,46,000
Dacca University ...	45,000	.....	.....	.....
Total	45,20,000	29,18,000	8,62,000	37,80,000

Mr. Beatson Bell.

51. "*Medical*.—The budget grant for 1915-16 was Rs. 36,13,000. This has been reduced to Rs. 27,52,000 in the revised estimate with reference to the actuals of the first nine months of the year. The decrease is chiefly due to savings in the grant for expenditure on sanitation and also to the transfer of a portion of the grant to the Public Works Department, to Municipalities and District Boards to the head "45—Civil Works," and non-utilization of the grants for the School of Tropical Medicine and medical relief. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 28,25,000 and includes the following items :—

	Rs.
Local allowance for Civil Surgeon, Alipore, for charge of the Venereal Hospital	1,800
Clinical laboratory assistant for Medical College	1,020
Lady doctor for Sambhu Nath Pundit Hospital ...	960
Lump grant for sanitation	2,50,000
Charges for gratuitous relief to malaria-stricken areas	5,000
Government contribution towards the pay of Health Officers	26,100
Additional Demonstrator for Medical College ...	1,200
Increased provision for diet, clothing and bedding of lunatic asylums	5,000
Grant for establishment, etc., for investigation into the causation and prevalence of Diabetes in India	12,000

The grants for Presidency hospitals are shown below :—

	Salaries	Establishment	Allowances	Clothing and bedding.	Diet	Other supplies.	Contingencies.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Medical College Hospital	38,000	19,760	680	90,000	1,29,000	86,560	3,64,000	
General Hospital ..	58,000	9,468	1,360	79,000	42,200	49,972	2,40,000	
Campbell Hospital ..	14,520	27,972	11,000	37,000	21,500	35,008	1,47,000	
Albert Victor Asylum for Lepers ...	5,140	3,600	180	17,000	1,200	7,620	35,000	

The following grants have been sanctioned from the lump provision for Sanitation in 1915-16 :—

	Rs.
Bankura Municipality for drainage and water-supply of the town	11,025
Anti-malarial operations conducted by the Sanitary Commissioner	12,500
Distribution of quinine amongst school children in the district of Hooghly and in the Kalna Subdivision	5,000
Chittagong Municipality to meet the pay of its European Engineer-Secretary	10,200
Grant to the Calcutta Corporation for drainage of the fringe area	42,017
Temporary establishment, Sanitary Engineer's office	30,000
Experiment on the sewage of Calcutta ...	5,100
Contribution to Municipal Dispensaries for the supply of adequate quantities of quinine ...	3,825
Contribution to Municipal Dispensaries towards the pay of Sanitary Inspectors	3,860
Rent of the house hired for the laboratory of the Special Deputy Sanitary Commissioner for malaria research	1,157
Sanitary arrangements, Lower Ganges Bridge project	856
Faridpur Municipality for drainage	3,333
Dacca „ for conservancy ...	7,500

Bankura District Board for tank-digging and other sanitary works	50,000
Stegomyia investigation	2,000
Cost of the Town-planning exhibition by Professor Geddes	11,000
Free vaccination in Bakarganj	3,500
Grant to Tippera District Board for excavating tanks	57,454
Improvement of sanitation in the town of Bankura	5,000
Printing of the Bengali Almanac for 1323 for quinine advertisement	4,692
Burdwan Municipality towards drainage scheme	25,390

52. *Political.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 30,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 24,000 with reference to the actuals of the first eight months of the year. The decrease is due to the post of the Political Agent, Hill Tippera, having remained vacant from December 1914 to July 191 . The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 23,000.

53. *Agriculture.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 11,17,000, but with reference to the actuals of the first nine months of the year the revised estimate has been raised to Rs. 11,61,000. The increase is due to the expansion of the operations of the Agricultural Department as well as to the appointment of additional auditors and an additional grant for travelling allowances in the Co-operative Department. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 11,29,000 and includes the following items of expenditure :—

	Rs.
Deputy Superintendent for the Veterinary Department	2,400
Allotment for travelling allowance of ditto ...	2,000
Provision for travelling allowance of officers of the Veterinary College to other provinces to enlarge their experience	1,000
Travelling allowance of additional Veterinary assistants	5,800
Additional cost of serum	5,000
Additional grant for travelling allowance of officers of the Agriculture Department ...	22,000
Appointment of two overseers for the Burirhat and Rangpur dairy farms	720
Appointment of clerks and servants for the Divisional Seed Stores	2,400
Travelling allowance of the Superintendents and overseers of the Experimental farms ...	4,730
Potato, Bonemeal and Ufra experiments ...	30,000
Annual contribution to the Indian Tea Association	4,000
Additional grant for seeds, manures, implements, rents, etc., of the Divisional Seed Stores ...	8,235
Additional Inspectors of the Co-operative Department	10,000
Additional grant for travelling allowance of the officers of the department	5,000

54. *Scientific and other Miscellaneous Departments.*—The total charges under this head for 1915-16 were originally estimated at Rs. 5,05,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 4,64,000 with reference to the actuals of the first nine months of the year. The decrease is due to savings in the grant for contingencies of the Cinchona factory, to the post of the Certifying Surgeon being vacant for sometime, to smaller expenditure on fishery experiments and to savings in the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, the post of the Assistant Registrar being vacant for some time

and the office removed to Government buildings. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 6,44,000 and includes the following provisions :—

	Rs.
Expenditure on the development of industries ...	1,00,000
Director of Industries	30,000
Additional grant for stores for Cinchona factory ...	7,500
Grant for the maintenance of Dacca Museum ...	6,000
Cost of constructing a new bungalow for the Assistant Superintendent of Emigration, Goalundo ...	3,000
Cost of the removal and repairs of the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Emigration and other sheds to a different site	1,100
Travelling allowance of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars	1,000

55. *Superannuation.*—The estimate for 1915-16 is Rs. 34,29,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 31,73,000 owing to smaller expenditure on commutation of pensions and retired allowances. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 33,71,000, and includes two lakhs for commuted value of pensions and an increased provision of Rs. 75,000 over the revised estimate for superannuation, as the charges under this head rise yearly as the number of pensioners increases.

56. *Stationery and Printing.*—The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 13,48,000 against Rs. 13,87,000 and Rs. 13,17,000, the budget and revised estimates for 1915-16 respectively, and Rs. 12,69,717, the actuals of 1914-15. The following table compares the figures :—

Heads.	Actuals, 1914-15.	Budget estimate, 1915-16.	Revised estimate, 1915-16.	Budget estimate, 1916-17.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Forms Department at the Presidency ...	65,264	.....	.....	.....
Stationery purchased in this country ...	33,030	28,000	32,000	32,000
Government Presses ...	5,66,836	6,94,000	6,51,000	6,62,000
Printing at private presses	2,860	3,000	3,000	3,000
Stationery supplied from Central Stores ...	6,0.,918	6,60,000	6,30,000	6,50,000
Refunds	809	2,000	1,000	1,000
Total ...	12,69,717	13,87,000	13,17,000	13,48,000

The Forms Department has been amalgamated with the Presidency Jail Press from the beginning of 1915-16. The savings in 1915-16 under Government Presses were chiefly under overtime and contingencies. The decrease under Presses in 1916-17 is due to smaller requirements of European stores for the Presidency Jail Press.

57. *Miscellaneous.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 10,16,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 6,58,000. The reduction is chiefly due to the adjustment under the appropriate heads of the expenditure on grain allowance and the charges sanctioned by His Excellency from the provision for petty grants, and to the reappropriation of the reserve provision of Rs. 1,50,000 in order to meet expenditure under other heads. Against these transfers an additional grant of

Rs. 2½ lakhs was sanctioned under Gratuitous relief. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 12,28,000 and inlcudes the following items :—

	Rs.
Gratuitous relief	2,25,000
Allotment for petty grants by His Excellency ...	1,00,000
Ditto for grain allowance	4,00,000
General Reserve	2,00,000
Guarantee charges for telegraph lines	13,000
Subscription to the *Moslem Hitaishi*	9,516
Rewards for proficiency in Oriental languages ...	10,000

58. *Irrigation Major Works (Working expenses).*—The actual expenditure during 1914-15 was Rs. 2,57,700 and the estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 2,67,000, but in view of the actuals of the first nine months of the year the revised estimate has been reduced to Rs. 2,00,000. The decrease is chiefly due to reduced expenditure on maintenance and repairs of the Midnapore Canal. The budget for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 1,90,000 which is the minimum required to keep the canals in an efficient state of working. No expenditure is anticipated on silt clearance in the Hijili Tidal Canal. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 95,000.

59. *Irrigation Minor Works and Navigation.*—The actual expenditure during 1914-15 was Rs. 27,39,694, and the estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 22,92,000, but in view of the actuals of the first nine months of the year this estimate has been reduced to Rs. 22,50,000 in the revised estimate. The decrease is under Agricultural and Drainage works. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 20,92,000 and includes the following items :—

	Rs.
Creating a spill from the Bidyadhari river ...	1,00,000
Constructing an embankment with sluices along the south side of the Madaripur Bhil Channel	1,00,000
Dredging the Lower Kumar river at Char Maguria	50,000
Training works in the river Ganges ...	10,000
Dredging the Bhagirathi entrance	15,000
Completing the new head works of the Eden Canal	15,000
Training works in the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers by bandelling	35,000

The creation of a spill from the Bidyadhari river is a work of extreme urgency : if it be deferred for even two or three years the removal of the Calcutta Sewage outfall and the stoppage of all navigation through the Dhappa lock at an expenditure which can barely be estimated—certainly not less than a crore of rupees—will have to be faced. The Provincial share is one-half and amounts to Rs. 11,25,000 for 1915-16 and Rs. 10,46,000 for 1916-17.

60. *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 64,88,000, but in the revised estimate this has been raised to Rs. 68,00,000 on account of expenditure of the special grants sanctioned during the year for the Dacca University, Calcutta University Institute, Baker hostel, *guru*-training schools and several other projects. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 52,60,000, and is distributed as shown below.

	1915-16.		1916-17.
	Budget.	Revised.	Budget.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Establishment ...	13,50,000	12,50,000	13,00,000
Tools and Plant, Stock and Suspense ...	50,000	1,67,000	50,000
Repairs	22,00,000	22,23,000	24,00,000
Works in progress ...	24,57,900	31,60,000	8,60,000
New works	4,30,100		6,50,000
Total ...	64,88,000	68,00,000	52,60,000

Mr. Beatson Bell.

The grant for new works is distributed thus :—

Minor works and reserve—

	Rs.	Rs.
Education	50,000	
Medical	25,000	
Registration	12,000	
Police (Mufassil)...	35,000	
Calcutta Police	10,000	
Jails	30,000	
Excise	6,000	
Courts of Law	5,000	
Agriculture	8,000	
Commissioners of Divisions ...	50,000	
Residences of Local Government ...	10,000	
Archæological works	20,000	
Public Works Department reserve ...	59,000	
		3,20,000

New major works—

Construction of drains and privies in the Alipore District Judge's Court. (This is necessary in order to comply with a requisition from the Calcutta Corporation)	21,300	
Construction of a residence for the Superintendent of Police, Burdwan, for whom no house at present exists	34,000	
Construction of a combined reserve office and a guard house in the Reserve Police lines at Bankura ...	9,000	
Construction of a new hospital for the Dinajpur Jail	40,000	
Extension of the Sadar Registration office at Burdwan	7,800	
Construction of a Sub-Registry office at Madhupur, Mymensingh ...	6,500	
Construction of a Sub-Registry office at Matla, 24-Parganas	5,900	
Construction of a Sub-Registry office at Mirserai, Chittagong	5,500	
Unallotted	2,00,000	
		3,30,000

61. *Civil Works in charge of Civil Department.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 22,09,000, but in the revised estimate this has been raised to Rs. 22,56,000. The increase is due to the special grants sanctioned for digging tanks in the affected areas of Bankura and Tippera; Rs 42,017 to the Calcutta Corporation for the fringe area drainage and Rs. 7,500 for water-supply in Bankura Municipality against savings in the allotments at the disposal of the Divisional Commissioner and the District Magistrates as well as to the transfer of a portion of their grants to Education and Medical. The estimate for 1916-17 amounts to Rs. 11,40,000 and includes the following:—

	Rs.
Grant to the Calcutta Improvement Trust ...	1,50,000
Special grants at the disposal of the Divisional Commissioners	1,00,000
Special grants at the disposal of the District Magistrates	52,000
Augmentation grants	7,03,000
Grants to District funds for road works ...	67,631

Mr. Beatson Bell.

Bengal Provincial Revenue.

RECEIPTS.	ACTUALS.			1915-16.		1916-17.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance ...	1,66,25,000	3,13,30,270	3,18,11,112	2,81,31,000	2,72,60,000	2,58,90,000
ncipal Heads of Revenue—						
I—Land Revenue	1,60,64,024	1,56,99,108	1,55,17,803	1,58,97,000	1,62,28,000	1,60,12,000
IV—Stamps	1,03,71,927	1,09,55,416	1,01,34,133	1,01,50,000	1,11,00,000	1,12,00,000
V—Excise	1,37,59,045	1,53,88,578	1,53,74,624	1,60,00,000	1,50,00,000	1,50,50,000
VI—Provincial Rates ...	32,02,152	1,31,340	1,70,453	1,10,000	2,25,000	1,04,000
VIII—Income Tax	27,75,826	33,18,958	34,92,305	30,50,000	34,00,000	53,40,000
IX—Forests	16,00,601	16,16,111	13,04,496	14,50,000	11,25,000	11,50,000
X—Registration ...	18,23,161	20,16,144	18,12,868	19,00,000	20,00,000	20,50,000
Total ...	4,95,96,736	4,91,25,655	4,78,06,682	4,85,57,000	4,90,78,000	5,09,06,000
XII—Interest	5,00,713	4,29,999	4,14,486	5,29,000	5,36,000	6,54,000
ceipts by Civil Department—						
XVI—Law and Justice—						
A—Courts of Law	8,14,901	8,42,811	8,60,139	9,13,000	8,40,000	8,30,000
B—Jails	7,03,353	6,71,947	8,34,256	7,60,000	9,33,000	8,02,000
XVII—Police	2,39,082	1,56,684	1,77,419	1,86,000	1,57,000	1,67,000
XVIII—Ports and Pilotage	17,52,191	16,76,604	15,52,988	16,20,000	14,15,000	14,25,000
XIX—Education	7,77,676	8,10,953	8,47,110	8,86,000	8,77,000	9,05,000
XX—Medical	4,26,733	4,20,307	3,94,558	3,80,000	3,59,000	3,81,000
XXI*A*—Agriculture	79,644	78,756	71,678	82,000	84,000	94,000
XXI*B*—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	1,38,287	1,98,925	4,61,291	3,53,000	5,20,000	5,22,000
Total ...	49,31 867	48,56,987	51,99,439	51,80,000	51,85,000	51,26,000
scellaneous—						
XXII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ...	48,210	38,886	58,567	40,000	57,000	56,000
XXIII—Stationery and Printing	1,20,103	1,37,862	1,49,604	1,32,000	1,16,000	1,27,000
XXV—Miscellaneous	7,72,339	7,68,760	6,71,057	6,90,000	6,30,000	6,52,000
Total ...	9,40,652	9,45,508	8,79,228	8,62,000	8,03,000	8,35,000
igation—						
XXIX—Major Works (direct receipts) ...	1,36,959	1,23,290	1,26,981	1,20,000	1,29,000	1,29,000
XXX—Minor Works and Navigation—						
By Public Works Department ...	3,20,105	2,82,520	2,43,233	2,85,000	3,10,000	3,10,000
By Civil Department ...	24,925	24,421	24,725	25,000	25,000	25,000
Total ...	4,81,989	4,30,231	3,94,939	4,30,000	4,64,000	4,64,000
ildings and Roads—						
XXXI—Civil Works—						
By Public Works Department ...	3,85,036	4,34,258	5,62,750	4,25,000	6,00,000	4,30,000
By Civil Department ...	1,42,523	1,66,034	1,46,493	1,57,000	1,50,000	1,59,000
Total ...	5,27,559	6,00,292	7,09,243	5,82,000	7,50,000	5,89,000
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial Revenues	+1,46,73,885	+57,52,800	+68,05,878	+56,67,000	+58,15,000	+34,30,000
Total Receipts ...	7,16,53,401	6,21,41,472	6,22,09,895	6,18,07,000	6,26,31,000	6,20,04,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	8,82,78,401	9,34,71,742	40,21,007	8,99,38,000	8,98,91,000	8,78,94,000

Mr. Beatson Bell.

Bengal Provincial Expenditure.

Expenditure.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
irect demand on the Revenues—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks	1,44,035	1,35,656	2,00,906	1,41,000	1,82,000	1,50,000
2. Assignments and Compensations ...	50,905	27,159	34,273	42,000	31,000	35,000
3. Land Revenue	32,36,128	34,40,775	33,89,970	36,66,000	35,37,000	34,52,000
6. Stamps	3,53,685	3,61,566	3,11,133	3,03,000	3,15,000	3,48,000
7. Excise	5,97,657	6,25,743	7,17,585	8,02,000	8,03,000	8,39,000
8. Provincial Rates	39,209	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
10. Income Tax	76,469	77,288	77,042	76,000	77,000	76,000
11. Forests	6,60,794	6,40,157	6,70,935	6,66,000	6,20,000	6,54,000
12. Registration	10,50,903	11,26,558	11,17,210	11,23,000	11,22,000	11,09,000
Total ...	62,09,785	64,34,902	65,19,054	68,19,000	66,87,000	66,63,000
13. Interest on Ordinary Debt ...	4,42,546	4,39,897	4,39,663	4,40,000	4,78,000	5,10,000
alaries and Expenses of Civil Department—						
18. General Administration	25,46,712	24,29,759	24,18,157	23,74,000	24,06,000	24,36,000
19. Law and Justice { Courts of Law ...	96,39,400	1,00,37,547	1,03,78,200	1,01,24,000	1,05,40,000	1,00,20,000
{ Jails ...	19,61,832	22,62,882	23,50,828	21,93,000	24,31,000	25,50,000
20. Police	83,99,859	94,71,081	1,03,72,545	1,05,35,000	1,10,26,000	1,11,12,000
21. Ports and Pilotage	12,16,009	14,28,377	13,78,205	14,76,000	14,05,000	13,30,000
22. Education	73,76,829	81,12,515	92,07,022	1,05,62,000	89,61,000	88,30,000
24. Medical	26,42,133	28,50,459	30,15,154	36,13,000	27,52,000	28,25,000
25. Political	38,976	32,975	18,358	30,000	24,000	28,000
26A. Agriculture	7,72,137	9,06,776	10,22,161	11,17,000	11,61,000	11,29,000
26B. Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	8,91,816	5,19,023	5,16,108	5,05,000	4,64,000	6,44,000
Total ...	3,54,85,703	3,80,51,394	4,06,76,738	4,25,31,000	4,11,70,000	4,08,99,000
Miscellaneous—						
29. Superannuation, etc.	29,25,688	31,00,288	31,98,648	34,29,000	31,73,000	33,71,000
30. Stationery and Printing	13,34,429	14,85,406	12,69,717	13,87,000	13,17,000	13,48,000
32. Miscellaneous	4,25,610	5,87,418	4,38,208	10,16,000	6,58,000	12,28,000
Total ...	46,85,727	51,73,112	49,06,573	58,32,000	51,48,000	59,47,000
Famine Relief and Insurance—						
36. Reduction or avoidance of Debt ...	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Railways (Revenue Accounts)—						
40. Subsidised Companies—Land, etc. ...	—363	579	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	59,637	60,579	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Irrigation—						
42. Major Works—						
Working expenses	1,17,858	1,48,895	1,28,850	1,33,000	1,00,000	95,000
Interest on Debt	1,75,618	1,69,993	1,75,578	1,70,000	1,76,000	1,76,000
43. Minor Works and Navigation—						
By Public Works Department ...	7,68,153	9,62,228	13,69,847	11,46,000	11,25,000	10,46,000
By Civil Department	965	982	10,657	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total ...	10,62,594	12,82,098	16,84,932	14,50,000	14,02,000	13,18,000
Buildings and Roads—						
45. Civil Works—						
By Public Works Department ...	63 21,755	76,44,385	1,00,81,625	64,88,000	68,00,000	52,60,000
„ Civil Department	26,80,384	25,74,263	23,92,099	22,09,000	22,56,000	11,40,000
Total ...	90,02,139	1,02,18,648	1,24,73,724	86,97,000	90,56,000	64,00,000
Total Charges ...	5,69,48,131	6,16,60,630	6,67,60,684	6,58,29,000	6,40,01,000	6,17,97,000
Closing Balance ...	3,13,30,270	3,18,11,112	2,72,60,323	2,41,09,000	2,58,90,000	2,60,97,000
Grand Total ...	8,82,78,401	9,34,71,742	9,40,21,007	8,99,38,000	8,98,91,000	8,78,94,000
Provincial surplus (+) or deficit (—) ...	+1,47,05,270	+4,80,542	—45,50,789	—40,22,000	—13,70,000	+2,07,000

APPENDIX A.

Bengal Provincial Receipts, in detail of minor heads.

[Figures in columns 6 and 7 are those which have been passed by the Government of India.]

The remarks in column 8, except where otherwise specially explained, refer to differences between columns 5 and 7.

1.—Land Revenue—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Gross Land Revenue	2,79,87,155	2,80,28,537	2,82,67,073	2,91,49,000	2,92,28,000	2,97,99,000	Increase in revised is due to the settlement of two estates in Bakarganj with proprietors, the sale of certain khas mahal lands to the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the capitalized value of certain lands acquired for railway projects. Budget based on the probable demands of revenue, including recoveries of suspensions.
Deduct collections from Government estates which are wholly Provincial ...	47,70,855	42,77,344	40,45,515	44,37,000	46,00,000	45,00,000	Increase in revised is due to better condition of the jute trade which has improved collections, including arrears.
Deduct recoveries of cost of maintenance of boundary marks wholly Provincial ...	.....	938	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Deduct recoveries of Survey and Settlement charges which are wholly Imperial	6,29,962	9,08,657	12,80,024	17,92,000	13,75,000	22,78,000	Decrease in revised is due to curtailment of programme in Midnapore and the non-completion of records in Rajshahi.
Deduct recoveries of cost of maintenance of boundary pillars	.....	—55	3,042	.....	3,000	4,000	
Total deductions ...	54,00,817	51,86,884	53,28,581	62,29,000	59,78,000	67,82,000	
Net amount divisible between Imperial and Provincial	2,25,86,338	2,28,41,653	2,29,38,492	2,29,20,000	2,32,50,000	2,30,17,000	
Provincial share of above	1,12,93,169	1,14,20,826	1,14,69,246	1,14,60,000	1,16,25,000	1,15,08,000	
Add collections from Government estates	47,70,855	42,77,344	40,45,515	44,37,000	46,00,000	45,00,000	
Add recoveries of cost of maintenance of boundary pillars	.....	938	3,042	.....	3,000	4,000	
Total Provincial ...	1,60,64,024	1,56,99,108	1,55,17,803	1,58,97,000	1,62,28,000	1,60,12,000	

IV—Stamps—

Sale of general stamps	63,74,686	67,52,401	54,37,637	55,00,000	66,00,000	67,00,000	
Sale of court-fee stamps	1,38,54,986	1,45,01,549	1,42,12,821	1,42,00,000	1,50,00,000	1,51,00,000	
Sale of plain paper to be used with court-fee stamps	3,10,308	3,23,073	3,07,103	3,10,000	3,15,000	3,20,000	
Duty on impressing documents ...	57,163	2,30,774	1,97,230	2,10,000	2,10,000	2,15,000	
Fines and penalties	31,923	31,707	30,723	30,000	34,000	35,000	
Miscellaneous	84,787	71,327	82,751	50,000	41,000	30,000	
Total ...	2,07,43,853	2,19,10,831	2,02,68,265	2,03,00,000	2,22,00,000	2,24,00,000	Increase in revised is due to partial recovery of trade as well as to the opening of the Share Market which remained closed during the cold weather months of 1914-15. Budget allows for a moderate growth in expectation of some improvement in trade and business, while a decrease on account of the creation of the Patna High Court has been taken into account.
Provincial share ...	1,03,71,927	1,09,55,416	1,01,34,133	1,01,50,000	1,11,00,000	1,12,00,000	

V—Excise—

License and distillery fees for the sale of liquors and drugs—							
Foreign liquors	3,44,760	3,05,450	3,11,941	3,80,000	3,20,000	3,20,000	
Indian-made liquors excised at tariff rates	2,41,811	3,44,519	3,76,240	3,50,000	3,92,000	4,35,000	Rs. 50,000 added as result of new taxation.
Country spirits—							
License fees—							
Distillery	64,11,686	69,61,029	27,26,000	67,70,000	26,75,000	26,25,000	
Outstills			48,597		12,000	.....	
Still-head duty...			38,52 964		35,75,000	37,50,000	
Miscellaneous			23,347		22,000	20,000	
Toddy revenue	4,50,393	4,75,017	4,87,029	5,25,000	4,74,000	4,80,000	
Opium and its preparations ...	8,96,519	12,52,622	15,70,101	10,60,000	15,00,000	15,00,000	
Other drugs, ganja, bhang, etc. ...	16,32,491	18,02,202	19,55,697	13,65,000	17,40,000	17,10,000	
Pachwai revenue	8,30,129	8,46,669	9,15,582	9,00,000	9,40,000	9,60,000	
Total ...	1,08,07,789	1,19,87,808	1,22,67,498	1,13,50,000	1,16,50,000	1,18,00,000	
Gain on sale-proceeds of excise opium ...	14,79,610	14,90,547	13,65,636	21,10,000	15,50,000	14,50,000	
Duty on ganja	14,37,379	18,72,650	16,98,764	25,00,000	17,50,000	17,50,000	
Fines, confiscations, and miscellaneous ...	34,267	37,573	42,726	40,000	50,000	50,000	
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,37,59,045	1,53,88,578	1,53,74,624	1,60,00,000	1,50,00,000	1,50,50,000	Revised based on the actuals of ten months Decrease in revised is due to the decline in consumption owing to the economic condition of the people brought about by the war and agricultural depression.

VI—Provincial Rates—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Public Works Cess	30,96,008	.....	57,231	.....	1,25,000	.....	The Public Works Cess has been credited to the District Boards since 1913-14. The actuals of 1914-15 and 1915-16 represent arrears which accrued prior to 1913-14 and are being credited to Government. It is anticipated that all the arrears will be collected in 1915-16 and nothing will be left to be recovered in 1916-17.
General rates for the management of private estates	1,06,144	1,31,340	1,13,222	1,10,000	1,00,000	1,04,000	Revised based on nine months actuals. The estimate for 1916-17 has been calculated at the prescribed rates on the gross income of the estates under management.
Total ...	32,02,152	1,31,340	1,70,453	1,10,000	2,25,000	1,04,000	

VIII—Income Tax—

Deductions by Government from salaries and pensions, etc.	4,86,852	5,04,822	5,19,520	5,10,000	5,26,000	6,00,000	Increase expected from new taxation.
Deductions by Government from interest on Government securities	21,192	24 052	22,497	22,000	24,000	30,000	
Deductions from salaries, etc., paid by local authorities or companies	88,660	94,440	94,608	90,000	90,000	90,000	
Income-tax on securities of local authorities or companies	1,43,568	1,55,151	1,64,820	1,60,000	1,60,000	1,60,000	
Ordinary collections	47,89,658	58,39,275	61,61,745	53,00,000	59,70,000	97,75,000	The tax of 1915-16 is assessed on the profits earned in 1914-15, and as the earnings of that year were affected by war, the collections of 1915-16 are expected to be lower. Increase in 1916-17 is for new taxation.
Penalties	13,448	11,790	11,091	10,000	18,000	15,000	
Miscellaneous	8,274	8,386	9,739	8,000	12,000	10,000	
Deduction from profits of Railway Companies	.....	.....	590	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	55,51,652	66,37,916	69,84,610	61,00,000	68,00,000	1,06,80,000	
Provincial share ...	27,75,826	33,18,958	34,92,305	30,50,000	34,00,000	53,40,000	Revised based on eleven months' actuals.

IX—Forests—

Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency ...	1,07,835	17,940	1,209	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers ...	14,41,410	15,34,682	12,42,027	14,00,000	10,75,000	11,00,000	Decrease in revised is chiefly due to the congestion of the timber market on account of the war and to difficulties in the extraction of timber in the Sundarbans.
Confiscated drift and waif wood ...	1,836	5,320	8,092	3,000	4,000	4,000	
Miscellaneous	49,520	58,169	53,168	45,000	44,000	44,000	
Total ...	16,00,601	16,16,111	13,04,496	14,50,000	11,25,000	11,50,000	Revised based on eleven months' actuals.

V—Registration—

ees for registering documents ...	16,83,575	18,54,426	16,59,643	17,30,000	18,50,000	19,00,000	Increase is attributed to the agricultural distress in certain districts and the rise of prices. Budget allows for normal increase.
ees for copies of registered documents ...	63,164	73,930	72,535	80,000	70,000	70,000	
liscellaneous	76,422	87,788	80,090	90,000	80,000	80,000	
Total ...	18,23,161	20,16,144	18,12,868	19,00,000	20,00,000	20,50,000	Revised based on ten months' actuals.

VII—Interest—

Class I.—Interest on advances to cultivators—							
On advances to cultivators under the Land Improvement Loans Act of 1883 ...	20,958	15,587	10,069	50,000	1,02,000	1,40,000	Increase due to large advances in Bankura, Tippera and Noakhali.
On advances to cultivators under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, XXII of 1884	36,469	16,107	19,293				
On loans to Co-operative Credit Societies	1,672	3,449	2,208	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Class II.—Interest on advances under Special Laws—							
On drainage and embankment advances ...	14,735	3,500	2,160	14,000	1,000	10,000	Based on the estimated mean balance of loan account.
Class III.—Interest on loans to landholders, etc.	1,97,580	1,65,429	1,48,019	1,60,000	1,92,000	2,08,000	Increase due to additional loan to the Maharaja Tagore.
Class IV.—Interest on loans to municipal and other public corporations (excluding Presidency Corporations)	2,00,145	2,01,426	2,07,690	2,90,000	2,16,000	2,80,000	Decrease in revised is caused by the curtailment of loans to meet urgent requirements of class I Increase in budget is due to the anticipated realization of interest from the District Board of the 24-Parganas on the Magra Hat drainage loan; the work has now been completed.
Interest on Government securities ...	10,545	10,545	11,554	12,000	12,000	12,500	
Total ...	4,82,104	4,16,043	4,00,993	5,28,000	5,25,000	6,52,500	
Miscellaneous—							
Interest on arrears of Public Works Cess	13,361	11,053	12,970	...	10,000	...	
Other items	5,001	2,640	84	1,000	500	1,000	
Interest on zamindari embankment recoveries, etc.	247	263	439	300	500	500	
Total Miscellaneous ...	18,609	13,956	13,493	1,300	11,000	1,500	
Rounding ...	...	...	...	—300	...	...	
GRAND TOTAL ...	5,00,713	4,29,999	4,14,486	5,29,000	5,36,000	6,54,000	

XVIA—Law and Justice—Courts of Law—

HEADS.	ACTUALS.			1915-16.		1916-17.	REMARKS.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	
Sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property	28,892	27,509	27,168	30,000	24,000	25,000	
Court-fees realized in cash	64,124	63,893	66,350	62,000	79,000	75,000	
General fees, fines, and forfeitures ...	6,55,040	6,89,369	7,09,869	7,55,000	6,75,000	6,75,000	Decrease in budget is due to the opening of the new High Court at Patna.
Pleadership Examination fees ...	32,385	29,683	24,724	34,000	24,000	23,000	The receipts are decreasing gradually.
Miscellaneous fees and fines	5,855	4,898	3,933	4,000	4,000	4,000	
Miscellaneous	28,605	27,459	28,095	28,000	34,000	28,000	Increase in 1915-16 is special.
Total ...	8,14,901	8,42,811	8,60,139	9,13,000	8,40,000	8,30,000	Revised based on ten months' actuals.

XVIB—Jails—

Jails	1,356	839	2,363	1,000	3,000	2,000	
Jail manufactures	7,01,997	6,71,108	8,31,893	7,59,000	9,30,000	8,00,000	Increase in revised is due to larger supplies to the Military Department which may be less in 1916-17.
Total ...	7,03,353	6,71,947	8,34,256	7,60,000	9,33,000	8,02,000	Revised based on ten months' actuals.

XVII—Police—

Cash receipts under the Arms Act ...	937	777	934	1,000	500	500	
Police supplied to public departments, private companies, and persons	1,13,200	14,861	26,707	18,000	18,000	17,000	
Presidency police	89,566	1,08,456	1,10,160	1,33,000	1,01,000	1,11,000	Decrease in revised occurs chiefly under Police supplied to private individuals and receipts under the Motor Cycle Act.
Recoveries on account of village police ...	383	267	340	300	500	300	
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	16,880	15,332	13,820	14,600	12,000	12,000	
Miscellaneous	18,116	16,989	25,458	19,000	14,000	17,000	
Superannuation receipts	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Police supplied to Municipalities, cantonments and Town Funds	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,000	9,000	Represents amounts due from the Calcutta Municipal Corporation on account of guards supplied to protect the water-works.
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+100	.....	+200	
Total ...	2,39,082	1,56,684	1,77,419	1,86,000	1,57,000	1,67,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals.

VIII—Ports and Pilotage—							
Sale-proceeds of vessels and stores ...	1,578	943	119	1,000	.....	1,000	
Registration and other fees, Calcutta ...	91,486	96,323	87,325	98,000	84,000	80,000	
Pilotage receipts, Calcutta ...	15,22,201	14,55,086	13,08,044	13,20,000	11,55,000	11,60,000	Decrease due to the effect of the war on shipping.
Lead-money for volunteers	11,472	8,736	6,563	9,000	5,000	8,000	
Miscellaneous	1,25,454	1,15,516	1,50,937	1,92,000	1,71,000	1,76,000	The estimates for 1915-16 and 1916-17 include Rs. 72,000, being the anticipated receipts for the loan of the steamer *Guide* to the Government of India for station duty at Port Blair.
Total ...	17,52,191	16,76,604	15,52,988	16,20,000	14,15,000	14,25,000	Revised based on ten months' actuals.
XIX—Education—							
Fees, Government Colleges—							
General	3,00,593	3,07,447	3,31,479	3,22,000	3,38,000	3,26,000	
Professional	49 713	61,468	59,727	63,000	60,000	60,000	
Fees, Government Schools—							
General	3,45,875	3,62,836	3,85,950	4,06,000	4,04,000	4,34,000	Increase in budget is due to the opening of the new Residential school for boys at Hastings House, Alipore.
Special	15,009	14,071	13,086	31,000	13,000	28,000	Budget includes fees from Madrassas which were formerly credited to the Mohsin Fund.
Contributions from Native States, private persons, and municipalities	14,667	13,609	14,865	16,000	16,000	15,000	
Income from endowments	111	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	
Miscellaneous	51,708	51,522	42,003	47,900	46,000	42,000	
Total ...	7,77,676	8,10,953	8,47,110	8,86,000	8,77,000	9,05,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals.
XX—Medical—							
Medical School and College fees ...	86,743	96,578	1,01,274	1,06,000	1,04,000	1 05,000	
Hospital receipts (receipts from paying patients)	1,55,537	1,62,630	1,61,738	1,70,000	1,50,000	1,60,000	Budget based on the actuals of the past years.
Lunatic Asylum receipts	26,108	22,919	22,825	23,000	22,000	21,000	
Contributions (from municipalities and private persons)	1,05,181	57,599	73,560	56,000	62,000	74,000	The actuals of 1912-13 included a special contribution of Rs. 50,000 from the Indian Research Fund for jungle-clearing. Budget includes Rs. 12,000 for contribution of Rs. 1,000 a month from the Indian Research Fund Association for investigation into the causation and prevalence of diabetes in India.
Medicines sold by Civil Surgeons ...	37,293	62,864	3,534	7,000	500	500	Decrease due to the adjustment of receipts from the sale of quinine to Jails and Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments from 1914 15.
Miscellaneous	15,871	17,717	31,627	18,000	20,500	20,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	+500	
Total ...	4,26,733	4,20,307	3,94,558	3,80,000	3,59,000	3,81,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals.

XXIA—Agriculture—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Botanical Garden Receipts	3,871	597	355	800	1,000	1,000	
Birch Hill Park at Darjeeling and Lebong Forest		2,130	2,354	1,800	1,000	1,900	
Other Government gardens		456	.....	400	.....	200	
Miscellaneous		96	1,007	100	1,000	.....	
Receipts on account of experimental cultivation	42,515	44,474	40,147	46,900	48,000	60,000	Increase expected from Rangpur and other farms.
Receipts from public exhibitions and fairs ...	.....	33	8	.....	.....	.....	
Veterinary receipts	33,258	30,970	27,807	32,000	33,000	31,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—100	
Total ...	79,644	78,756	71,678	82,000	84,000	94,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

XXIB—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—

Scientific—							
Cinchona Plantations	99,509	1,70,950	4,10,258	3,00,000	4,63,000	4,70,000	Increase due to larger sales of quinine for which there is a growing demand by the public as well as by the Military and other departments.
Labour and Emigration—							
Emigration fees	24,630	17,280	6,170	8,000	8,000	5,000	Decrease of emigration to Fiji and West India Colonies due to the conversion of steamers into transports for war.
Inland labour transport fees ...	8,396	8,238	4,633	4,000	3,700	2,000	Decrease due to the abolition of recruitment by contractors and the extension to local agents of individual employers of the concessions previously granted only to approved associations.
Miscellaneous—							
Examination fees	25	237	958	600	300	500	
Miscellaneous	5,727	2,220	39,272	40,000	45,000	45,000	The fees from the registration of Joint Stock Companies are credited here since 1914-15.
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+400	.....	—500	
Total ...	1,38,287	1,98,925	4,61,291	3,53,000	5,20,000	5,22,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

XXII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation—

Contributions for pensions and gratuities—							
Contributions of officers lent to foreign service of the first and second kinds	26,451	20,453	39,412	21,000	37,500	37,000	Increase due to the levy of contributions from officers employed on the Sara-Sirajganj Railway.
Contributions of persons employed for the management of private estates under Act X of 1892	1,460	1,096	1,206	1,500	1,500	1,200	
Annuity deductions of Covenanted Civilians lent to Native States, etc., for short terms	4,663	3,282	3,709	3,200	4,000	4,000	
Refund of gratuities	72	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	
Deductons for Pilotage Pension Fund ...	15,564	14,055	14,240	14,000	14,000	14,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+200	.....	−200	
Total ...	48,210	38,886	58,567	40,000	57,000	56,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

XXIII—Stationery and Printing—

Stationery receipts	2,799	1,001	2,016	1,000	3,000	2,000	
Sale of Gazettes and other publications ...	88,111	95,236	83,627	90,000	80,000	88,000	
Other Press receipts	29,193	41,625	63,961	41,000	33,000	37,000	The actuals of 1914-15 included special receipts from the sale of waste paper and unserviceable materials from the Dacca Jail Press on its removal to Gaya.
Total ...	1,20,103	1,37,862	1,49,604	1,32,000	1,16,000	1,27,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

XXV—Miscellaneous—

Recovery on account of famine expenditure	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Unclaimed deposits	6,38,026	6,01,162	5,57,187	5,80,000	5,25,000	5,50,000	This is an uncertain head. Revised based on the deposits likely to lapse at the end of the year, less the amounts likely to be refunded within the year. Budget based on the average of three years, 1913-14 to 1915-16.
Treasure-trove	500	.....	44	.....	.....	.....	
Sale-proceeds of Durbar presents ...	7,225	10,293	454	7,000	2,000	3,000	
Sale of old stores and materials ...	1,727	8,420	3,774	2,000	1,000	2,000	
Sale of lands and houses, etc., ...	2,742	13,767	457	2,000	.....	.....	
Fees for Government audits	15,392	23,576	14,718	18,000	21,000	16,000	
Rents	14,900	16,991	12,631	15,000	15,000	15,000	
Miscellaneous fees, fines, and forfeitures ...	7,098	2,961	7,700	5,000	9,000	6,000	
Contributions	702	.....	.....	500	.....	.....	
Total ...	6,88,313	6,77,170	5,96,965	6,29,500	5,73,000	5,92,000	

XXV—Miscellaneous—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Miscellaneous—							
Cash recoveries of service payments in previous years	.....	.....	13,531	.....		5,000	
Fees and fines of revenue courts ...	27,194	22,227	19,488	22,000		20,000	
Recoveries of law charges other than those in pauper suits	40,791	15,062	18,955	15,000		15,000	
Value of mathematical stores returned ...	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	
Sundry receipts—Circuit-house ...	299	342	.....	400		.....	
Miscellaneous receipts on account of Public Works Cess under Act IX (B.C.) of 1880	704	442	.....	.....		.....	
Miscellaneous receipts on account of the management of Wards' estates ...	107	2,970	.....	100		.....	
Sale-proceeds of trees on tea lands ...	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	
Sale of elephants	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	
Other items	10,754	50,547	22,118	22,500		20,000	
Steamer receipts, Chittagong ...	4,177	.....	.....	.....		.....	
Total Miscellaneous ...	84,026	91,590	74,092	60,000	57,000	60,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+500	.....	.....	
Grand Total ...	7,72,339	7,68,760	6,71,057	6,90,000	6,30,000	6,52,000	Revised based on actuals of the first nine months.

XXIX—Irrigation—Major Works—(Receipts)—

Midnapore Canal	2,20,782	2,10,152	2,23,591	2,03,000	2,10,000	2,10,000	Increase in revised is the result of silt clearance; the canal is now open for through traffic and this has increased the navigation receipts.
Hijli Tidal Canal	53,136	36,427	30,371	37,000	47,000	47,000	
Total ...	2,73,918	2,46,579	2,53,962	2,40,000	2,57,000	2,57,000	
Provincial share ...	1,36,959	1,23,290	1,26,981	1,20,000	1,29,000	1,29,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first ten months.

XXX—Minor Works and Navigation—

IN CHARGE OF THE CIVIL DEPARTMENT.						
Recoveries on account of lands benefited by embankments	49,850	48,842	49,450	50,000	50,000	50,000	Represents the collections in Midnapore under the contract system of zamindari embankment.
Provincial share ...	24,925	24,421	24,725	25,000	25,000	25,000	
IN CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.						
(Irrigation and Navigation Works.)						
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept—						
Orissa Coast Canal	16,346	11,484	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Calcutta and Eastern Canals ...	4,21,908	3,76,032	3,21,078	3,63,000	3,21,500	3,21,300	
Madaripur Bhil scheme	1,03,225	89,332	67,522	60,000	1,78,000	1,78,000	Increase due to the fact that the canal is now open for navigation throughout the season.
Total ...	5,41,479	4,76,848	3,88,600	4,23,000	4,99,500	4,99,300	
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept—						
Orissa Coast Canal	.....	.....	9,700	14,000	10,000	12,000	
Nadia rivers	28,986	24,832	16,371	18,000	18,000	15,200	
Gaighatta and Buxi *khals* ...	3,675	4,244	5,032	4,000	4,000	4,000	
Total ...	32,661	29,076	31,103	36,000	32,000	31,200	
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept—						
Eden Canal	36,531	32,803	19,739	34,000	35,500	39,500	
Total Irrigation and Navigation Works	6,10,671	5,38,727	4,39,442	4,93,000	5,67,000	5,70,000	

XXX—Minor Works and Navigation—concluded.

HEADS.	ACTUALS.			1915-16.		1916-17.	REMARKS.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(Agricultural Works.)	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept—							
Magra Hât drainage project ...	2,480	4,277	20,478	54,000	30,000	27,000	Increase over 1914-15 expected on account of the completion of the Utterbhag work
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept—							
Government embankments ...	27,059	22,036	26,546	23,000	23,000	23,000	
Takavi embankments under contract ...							
Total Agricultural Works ...	29,539	26,313	47,024	77,000	53,000	50,000	
Total in charge of the Public Works Department	6,40,210	5,65,040	4,86,466	5,70,000	6,20,300	6,20,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.
Provincial share ...	3,20,105	2,82,520	2,43,233	2,85,000	3,10,000	3,10,000	

XXXI—Civil Works—

IN CHARGE OF THE CIVIL DEPARTMENT.							
Tolls on ferries	1,33,829	1,54,595	1,32,885	1,44,000	1,37,000	1,47,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals. Budget raised on account of resettlement of ferries.
Cemetery receipts	1,191	1,495					
Receipts from staging bungalows and encamping grounds	3,905	5,714	4,653	.....	2,500	2,500	
Miscellaneous	3,598	4,230	8,287	12,700	10,000	8,700	
Fees on masonry graves	.....	.....	599	.....	500	700	
Sale of produce	.....	.....	69	300	.....	100	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total in charge of the Civil Department	1,42,523	1,66,034	1,46,493	1,57,000	1,50,000	1,59,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.
IN CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.							
Total gross receipts ..	3,85,036	4,34,258	5,62,750	4,25,000	6,00,000	4,30,000	Increase in revised is due to adjustment for the value of racks dismantled from the Secretariat buildings at Dacca and to the special receipts from the sale of the Lall Bazar Police buildings which have been demolished and sold. Budget based on normal receipts and follow the actuals of 1913-14. The actuals of 1914-15 included special receipts on account on the profits of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway and sale proceeds of the old Presidency Jail buildings.

Transfers between Imperial and Provincial Revenues—

From Provincial to Imperial.						
Fixed assignment under the Provincial Settlement	7,28,000	7,28,000	7,28,000	7,28,000	7,28,000	7,28,000
For repairs to Nizamat Palace, Murshidabad	.....	40,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
For Law charges on account of Bihar and Orissa	.....	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
For Collegiate and University education in Bihar and Orissa	.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
Contribution to Bihar and Orissa for training of shoals in the Ganges ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,000	12,000
For premises No. 9, Hare Street ...	.....	.....	9,550	9,000	9,000	9,000
For making certain alterations to the buildings of the Calcutta Museum for delivery of popular lectures	.....	2,454	.....	.....	.....	.....
For the transfer of work of Calcutta High Court to the new Patna High Court ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,00,000
Revenue from new taxation under Excise and Income-tax (Provincial share) transferred to Imperial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,90,000
Total ...	7,28,000	8,06,454	7,73,550	7,73,000	7,83,000	30,75,000
From Imperial to Provincial.						
Assignment in connection with further scientific researches by Dr. J. C. Bose ...	.....	.....	9,000	9,000	40,000	32,000
For Famine Relief scheme	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Grant to the Calcutta Improvement Trust ...	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000
Recurring grant for popular education ...	9,25,000	9,25,000	9,25,000	9,25,000	9,25,000	9,25,000
Recurring grant for aided English Secondary Schools	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000
Further recurring grant for education ...	.....	.....	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000
Recurring grant for education of domiciled community	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Contribution for a grant to the C. M S. College, Calcutta	.....	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
For Improvement of Female education ...	.....	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Contribution for maintenance of Traffic Registration Office, Bhairab Bazar ...	.....	.....	1,250	1,000	1,000	1,000
Contribution for Royal Bonus	1,227	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Non-recurring grant for the construction of Hostels outside Calcutta and Dacca ...	4,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grant for the development of University works, Calcutta	4,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto (recurring)	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Assignment for Belgatchia Veterinary College	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Ditto recovery of the cost of transmission of records by revised procedure introduced by the Court-fees Act ...	6,440	6,440	6,440	6,000	6,000	6,000
Grant for the amalgamation of the clerical establishment of the Art section of the Indian Museum with the School of Art ...	1,190	1,190	1,190	1,000	1,000	1,000
Provincialization of expenditure on account of salaries of officers of the Civil Veterinary Department	.....	.....	29,307	29,000	29,000	29,000
Assignment for purchase of copies of Indian Household Reference Chart and the Indian Household Emergency Chart ...	.....	.....	1,600	.....	.....	.....

Transfers between Imperial and Provincial—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
From Imperial to Provincial—concluded.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
For Archæological expenditure	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,000	.....	
For remission of recoveries from local bodies	.....	.....	25,881	26,000	26,000	26,000	
Non-recurring grant for the construction of hostel buildings in Calcutta	10,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Non-recurring grant for Dacca University ...	10,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Recurring ditto ditto ...	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	
Contribution from Bihar and Orissa towards pay of electrical staff utilised by it ...	7,572	7,572	7,572	8,000	8,000	8,000	
Grant for pensions of title-holders ...	2,700	2,700	2,700	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland's deputation for serological enquiry and that of Captain Shingleton Smith	17,256	46,352	25,778	35,000	35,000	35,000	
Grant of one-half of the salaries of Health Officers to be employed in municipalities	39,000	39,000	58,400	39,000	39,000	39,000	
Grant for Indian Deputy Sanitary Commissioners	.....	19,000		19,000	19,000	19,000	
Cost of supply of forms and printing work done for Bihar and Orissa Government ...	2,32,000	2,09,000	1,96,300	.....	45,000	.....	
Cost of supplying forms to Assam Administration	1,29,500	89,000	60,376	1,05,000	1,86,000	1,50,000	
Contribution from Bihar and Orissa in connection with fishery experiments ...	.....	.....	8,053	9,000	2,000	6,000	
Non-recurring assignment for sanitation ...	20,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Recurring ditto ...	.....	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	
Assignment for the Chittagong port ...	.....	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	
For adjustment of recovery claims for freights on stores from England in the office of the Agent for Government Consignments	.....	.....	6,581	11,000	11,000	11,000	
Non-recurring assignment for discretionary grants	12,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Grant for agriculture and allied objects ...	.....	1,50,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Grant for medical relief	.....	1,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Recurring assignment in connection with the remission of appropriations from cesses ...	.....	24,93,000	24,93,000	24,93,000	24,93,000	24,93,000	
Non-recurring assignment for education ...	75,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Recurring grant for education	.....	13,20,000	13,20,000	13,20,000	13,20,000	13,20,000	
Further grant for Dacca University ...	.....	.....	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	
Grant to the Calcutta University for hostels	.....	.....	10,00,000	.....	.....	.....	
Total Transfers from Imperial to Provincial	1,54,01,885	65,59,254	75,79,428	64,40,000	65,98,000	65,05,000	
Net Total ...	1,46,73,685	57,52,800	68,05,878	56,67,000	58,15,000	34,80,000	

APPENDIX B.

Bengal Provincial Expenditure, in detail of minor heads.

[Figures in columns 6 and 7 are those which have been passed by the Government of India]

[The remarks in column 8, except where otherwise specially explained, refer to differences between columns 5 and 7]

1.—*Refunds and Drawbacks—*

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land Revenue	21,090	20,115	17,115	24,000	18,000	20,000	
Stamps	94,552	79,835	98,969	85,000	90,000	92,000	The actuals of 1912-13 included special payments of Rs. 14,000 and those of 1914-15 special refunds of Rs. 19,000
Excise	13,504	16,843	48,042	16,000	60,000	25,000	There were special refunds of license fees for shops in 1914-15 and large refunds in Calcutta are expected in 1915-16.
Income-tax	8,367	8,654	17,245	8,000	10,000	8,000	There was a special refund to the Russian Trading Company in 1914-15.
Forest	1,274	4,380	588	4,000	1,000	1,000	
Provincial Rates	747	2,840	16,726	.....	.....	1,000	
Registration	4,501	2,989	2,221	4,000	3,000	3,000	
Total ...	1,44,035	1,35,656	2,00,906	1,41,000	1,82,000	1,50,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months; budget based on the average of last three years' actuals, excluding special payments

2.—*Assignments and Compensations—*

Land Revenue Compensation	.....	133	34	6	100	6	Revised includes arrear rent due to Bhutan Durbar.
Pension in lieu of resumed lands ...	927	706	699	1,000	900	1,000	
Malikana	49,978	26,320	33,540	41,500	30,000	34,000	This is a very fluctuating head. The actuals of 1912-13 included arrear payments.
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—506	.....	—6	
Total ...	50,905	27,159	34,273	42,000	31,000	35,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

3.—Land Revenue—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Charges of District Administration—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
General Establishment	23,35,332	24,18,192	24,40,121	25,89,000	24,97,000	25,78,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings under Salaries. Budget includes larger grant for travelling allowance of officers and additional provision for diet and travelling allowances of witnesses.
Subdivisional Establishment	1,59,479	1,67,515	1,70,364	1,48,000	1,72,000	1,50,000	Revised raised with reference to actuals of 1914-15 and first eight months of 1915-16.
Partition Establishment	—23,624	—19,274	—16,621	—15,000	9,000	—18,000	Smaller recoveries made in 1915-16.
Record-room (or copy-making) Establishment	17,790	17,943	19,689	20,000	23,000	18,000	
Survey of waste lands	8,136	1,465	1,726	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Management of private estates under Act X of 1892	22,729	23,832	23,366	23,000	21,000	22,000	
Collector's Road Cess Establishment ...	.....	.....	—6,532	—5,000	—6,000	—5,000	
Kanungo establishment	61,606	67,983	73,652	86,000	80,000	71,000	Revised based on actuals ; budget based on local requirements.
Total ...	25,81,448	26,77,656	27,05,765	28,48,000	27,98,000	28,18,000	
Charges on account of Land Revenue collections	13,280	17,348	10,685	24,000	14,000	15,000	Based on actuals.
Charges on account of Fishery collections ...	250	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Management of Government Estates—							
Collection of revenue	2,77,208	2,88,093	3,11,677	3,35,000	3,20,000	3,30,000	
Outlay on improvements	1,62,571	1,50,822	2,27,859	1,93,000	1,78,000	1,19,000	Decrease in revised is due to smaller outlay on improvements on account of economy in expenditure. Budget includes Rs. 50,000 for additional grant for improvements, and Rs. 50,500 for the colonization of Sundarbans in the district of Bakarganj.
Total ...	4,39,779	4,38,915	5,39,536	5,28,000	4,98,000	4,49,000	
Survey and Settlement—							
Controlling Office (survey)	—224	88	16,284	.....		.....	
Other survey operations—							
Bengal Drawing Office	8,696	52,378	—3,789	59,934		35,451	
Other operations	45,776	1,32,936	—7,604	77,411		53,159	
Minor settlement operations	49,545	74,471	64,952	.....		.....	
Other ditto	32,084	—16,008	.....	63,437		13,000	
Regrant of savings in the allotment for stationery	.....	.....	.....	1,393		.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—2,175		—1,610	
Total ...	1,35,877	2,43,865	69,843	2,00,000	1,62,000	1,00,000	Budget based on actual requirements.

Land Records—							
Superintendence	41,985	37,790	40,818	37,000	41,000	35,000	Budget includes Rs. 9,000 for revision of Land Registration Registers with reference to the Settlement records—Rs. 4,022 for Dacca, Rs. 4,042 for Faridpur and the balance for Mymensiugh.
District charges	23,509	25,201	23,323	29,000	24,000	35,000	
Total ...	65,494	62,991	64,141	66,000	65,000	70,000	
GRAND TOTAL ...	32,36,128	34,40,775	33,89,970	36,66,000	35,37,000	34,52,000	
6.—Stamps—							
Superintendence—							
District Establishment	28,133	26,802	27,446	29,000	27,000	34,000	Budget includes the pay of the newly appointed Probate officer and regrant of savings in the grant for contract contingencies.
Charges for the sale of general stamps—							
Discount on sale of bills-of-exchange or hundies	6,323	7,229	2,301	7,000	4,000	5,000	
Discount on sale of other general stamps	2,03,659	2,26,742	1,82,999	2,25,000	2,16,000	2,14,000	
Total ...	2,09,982	2,33,971	1,85,300	2,32,000	2,20,000	2,19,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.
Charges on sale of court-fee stamps—							
Discount on sale of adhesive stamps ...	1,03,350	1,05,997	1,00,202	1,04,000	1,04,000	4,03,000	
Discount on sale of stamps for copies	6,117	7,480	8,154	8,500	8,000	8,000	
Establishment for sale of stamps ...	1,033	1,023	1,243	1,494	1,000	1,494	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+6	.....	+506	
Total ...	1,10,500	1,14,500	1,09,599	1,14,000	1,13,000	1,13,000	
Discount on plain paper	18,309	20,323	19,008	20,000	20,000	20,000	
Stamp paper supplied from Central Stores	3,40,446	3,27,536	2,80,912	2,10,000	2,50,000	3,10,000	Revised raised in view of the increased issues in consequence of the increase in revenue.
GRAND TOTAL ...	7,07,370	7,23,132	6,22,265	6,05,000	6,30,000	6,96,000	
Provincial share ...	3,53,685	3,61,566	3,11,133	3,03,000	3,15,000	3,48,000	
7.—Excise—							
Superintendence	80,416	1,01,530	1,17,886	1,20,000	1,21,000	1,21,000	Increase due to the amalgamation with the Salt Department.
Presidency Establishment—							
Calcutta Collectorate (office) ...	48,494	46,626	45,669	46,320	43,500	48,552	
Inspection and Prevention ...	22,409	22,725	25,052	23,472	39,000	31,104	
Allowances and Contingencies ...	28,322	25,369	25,111	27,241	36,500	37,681	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—33	.....	—337	
Total ...	99,225	94,720	95,832	97,000	1,19,000	1,17,000	

7.—*Excise*—concluded.

Heads	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914 15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	
District Executive Establishment—							
Sadar Establishment	73 897	76.255	89.196	2.39.196	1.30.000	1.51.969	
Inspection and Prevention ...	1.36,035	1.32.907	2.27.539	2.20,061	2.80,000	3.89.244	Budget includes full provision for the revised establishment.
Allowances, etc.	87.553	98 383	1.36,162	1 30,097	1.25.000	1.42,436	
Bonus	53	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—354	.....	—80,649	
Total ...	2 97,538	3.07.545	4.52.897	5,89,000	5,35.000	6,03.000	
Distilleries—							
Presidency Establishment	13 690	11.335	12,419	13.000	12,500	9,000	
District Establishment	1.06,788	1,10 613	2.36.140	2.21.000	2,15.500	1.89.000	
Total ..	1.20,478	1.21.948	2.48.559	2.34,000	2.28.000	1.98.000	(a) Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months. Under present arrangements the expenditure of the two departments, Excise and Salt, is debited to this head in the first instance and a fixed sum of 2 lakhs will be transferred to the head "5—Salt" at the end of the year.
Deduct—Fixed share chargeable to "5—Salt"	.....	.....	1.97.589	2 38 000	2.00,000	2.00.000	
Provincial share ...	5.97,057	6.25.743	7,17.585	8.02,000	(a) 8.03,000	8.39.000	

8.—*Provincial Rates*—

Collection of rates and cesses	62.050	62.898					The expenditure is debited to the head "3—Land Revenue—Charges of District Administration" in the first instance and ultimately recovered from the District Boards, the recoveries including pension contributions taken in reduction of expenditure under that head.
Valuation and revaluation	84 320	91.104					
Bonus	245	.....					
Total ...	1,46 615	1,54.002					
Deduct—							
Proportion debitable to Local for cost of road cess collection	1 07,406	1.54,002					
Proportion debitable to Local for revaluation							
One-third share of recoveries on account of collection of arrear cesses ...							
Contribution for pension of the Cess-collecting Establishment ...							
	1.07.406	1,54,002					
Total ...	39.209	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	

10.—Income Tax—

Calcutta Establishment	91,378	91,734	90,257	88,000	90,000	89,000	Budget includes larger provision for Warrant establishment.
District ditto	61,559	62,843	63,828	64,000	64,000	63,000	No provision has been made for temporary establishment.
Total ...	1,52,937	1,54,577	1,54,085	1 52,000	1,54,000	1,52,000	Increase in revised is due to payment of leave allowances
Provincial share ...	76,469	77,288	77,042	76,000	77,000	76,000	Budget provides for the sanctioned scale of establishment.

11.—Forests—

A.—Conservancy and Works.						
I.—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency	36,767	195	904	700	1,000	600	
II.—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers and purchasers	1,12,100	1,15,613	1,24,426	1,31,659	1 20,000	1,25,000	
III.—Confiscated drift and waif wood ...	1,370	667	828	1,600	1,000	1,400	
V.—Rent of leased forests and payment to shareholders in forests managed by Government	1,096	360	781	1,000	200	1,000	
VI.—Live-stock, stores, tools and plant ...	18,192	27,465	25,305	14,200	12,000	19,000	Budget includes Rs 4,000 for the purchase of an elephant for the Chittagong Hill Tracts to replace a casualty.
VII.—Communications and Buildings ...	1,14,704	1,03,631	1,13,262	95,650	77,000	1,00,000	Decrease in revised is due to curtailment of expenditure.
VIII.—Demarcation, improvement and extension of forests	44,545	49,699	53,134	60,000	53,000	55,000	
IX.—Miscellaneous	3 309	3,884	4,924	5,000	5,800	5,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+200	.....	.....	
Total A.—Conservancy and Works ...	3,32,083	3,01,514	3,23,564	3,10,000	2,70,000	3,07,000	
B.—Establishment.							
I.—Salaries	2,49,895	2,53,997	2,59,389	2,70,000	2,59,000	2,59,000	Decrease due to provision for a 3rd grade Conservator and to the deputation of higher grade officers to other Provinces.
II.—Allowances	64,878	70,192	74,004	70,500	76,000	73,000	Revised includes charges for grain allowance by transfer from "32—Miscellaneous."
III.—Contingencies	13,938	14,454	13,978	14,883	15,000	15,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+617	.....	.....	
Total B.—Establishment ...	3,28,711	3,38,643	3,47,371	3,56,000	3,50,000	3,47,000	
Total A and B ...	6,60,794	6,40,157	6,70,935	6,66,000	6,20,000	6,54,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

12.—Registration—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Superintendence	70,135	79,069	75,189	73,000	75,000	72,000	Increase in revised is due to the privilege leave allowance of the Inspector-General.
District Charges—							
Calcutta	30,756	32,881	27,861	26,000	28,700	26,500	Increase in revised is under salaries.
District Sub-Registrars and Sub-Registrars	9,49,109	10,13,825	10,13,878	10,23,000	10,18,300	10,10,000	Decrease in revised is on account of savings under Salaries.
Ex-officio Sub-Registrars	903	783	282	1,000	.....	500	
Total District Charges ...	9,80,768	10,47,489	10,42,021	10,50,000	10,47,000	10,37,000	
Grand Total ...	10,50,903	11,26,558	11,17,210	11,23,000	11,22,000	11,09,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

13.—Interest on Ordinary Debt—

Interest on Provincial Advance and Loan Account	4,42,546	4,39,897	4,39,663	4,40,000	4,78,000	5,10,000	Both the revised and the budget are based on the estimated mean outstanding balances of loans.

Mr. Beatson Bell.

[illegible]—General Administration—

Salary of the Governor	1,29,096	1,20,000	1,20,000	1,20,000	1,20,000	1,20,000	
Staff and household of the Governor ...	4,22,279	3,06,916	3,65,213	3,00,000	3,30,000	3,35,000	Increase in revised is due to debit of charges for rates and taxes for which no provision was made in the budget. Budget includes Rs. 10,000 on account of regrant of savings in the revised grant for furniture and also the provision for rates and taxes.
Tour and establishment grant	1,48,628	1,25,885	71,640	73,000	70,000	73,000	
Delhi Coronation Durbar	22,146	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Tour expenses	.....	.....	44,065	60,000	45,000	60,000	
Legislative Department	1,03,961	1,46,576	1,31,424	1,33,000	1,17,000	1,31,000	
Civil Secretariat	7,61,442	7,94,853	8,47,883	8,22,000	8,66,000	8,68,000	Increase in revised is due to larger expenditure for officers on special duty, including Press Censor. Budget includes provision for the salary, establishment and other charges of the Press Censor and larger grant for officers on special duty.
Executive Council	2,15,680	2,25,735	2,23,184	2,19,000	2,18,000	2,19,000	
Board of Revenue	2,47,992	2,04,400	1,09,425	1,36,000	1,39,000	1,34,000	
Commissioners	3,93,518	4,08,974	4,01,005	4,04,000	3,95,000	3,89,000	
Civil offices of Account and Audit ...	1,01,970	96,420	1,04,318	1,07,000	1,06,000	1,07,000	
Total ...	25,46,712	24,29,759	24,18,157	23,74,000	24,06,000	24,36,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

194—*Courts of Law*—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
High Court—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Judges	9,18,675	9,28,928	9,34,018	9,40,000	9,08,000	7,00,000	Provision has been made for the Chief Justice and 13 judges.
Original Side	3,19,711	3,28,899	3,13,186	3,31,000	3,23,500	3,44,000	Decrease in revised is owing to the appointment of Registrar of Insolvency being vacant for some time. Budget includes Rs. 12,000 for the supply of typewritten transcripts of the evidence of witnesses given in one court.
Appellate Side	3,94,438	4,07,344	4,14,413	4,29,000	4,26,500	3,52,000	Decrease in budget is due to the transfer of a portion of the work to the new Patna High Court.
Reporters	24,878	24,888	24,963	25,000	25,000	22,000	
Bonus	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Lump deduction	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—12,000	
Total ...	16,58,610	16,90,054	16,86,580	17,25,000	16,83,000	14,06,000	
Law Officers—							
English Law Officers	1,29,837	1,31,739	1,28,940	1,33,000	1,33,000	1,33,000	
Legal Remembrancer and High Court Pleaders	5,89,666	3,99,690	4,63,150	3,82,000	4,00,000	4,18,000	Budget includes Rs. 35,000 for the Additional Legal Remembrancer and his establishment, etc.
Mufassal Establishment	2,60,137	4,61,414	5,60,226	3,26,000	5,78,000	3,82,000	Increase in revised is for larger payment of lawyers' fees in connection with political cases. Budget includes larger grant for law charges.
Bonus	—84	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	9,79,556	9,92,843	11,52,316	8,41,000	11,11,000	9,33,000	
Examiner's Court	7,307	7,913	7,892	8,000	8,000	8,000	
Presidency Magistrates—							
Calcutta Police Court	1,19,731	1,35,561	1,47,996	1,44,000	1,49,000	1,41,000	
Municipal Magistrate's Court ...	7,974	4,396	8,166	8,000	8,000	8,000	
Court for juvenile offenders and house of detention	.....	.....	8,799	10,000	8,000	10,500	
Bonus	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—500	
Total ...	1,27,713	1,39,957	1,64,961	1,62,000	1,65,000	1,59,000	

Civil and Sessions Courts—							
District and Sessions Judges ...	10,74,868	11,00,570	11,39,736	11,01,000	12,14,000	12,22,000	Increase in revised is due to the appointment of additional District and Sessions Judges and to charges in connection with the Defence of India Act. Budget provides for 4 permanent additional Judges sanctioned by the Secretary of State and no provision for temporary officers.
Subordinate Judges	4,41,166	4,77,176	5,31,138	5,17,250	5,31,000	4,94,414	Increase in revised is on account of additional temporary Subordinate Judges sanctioned during the year.
Mufassal Small Cause Courts ...	17,756	18,364	18,490	17,328	.....	.....	Transferred to Courts of Small Causes.
Munsifs ...	15,48,738	16,12,638	16,31,501	15,80,250	16,24,000	15,72,314	Increase in revised is on account of additional temporary Munsifs sanctioned during the year.
Allowances	42,461	54,892	59,654	37,000	61,000	38,000	Increase in revised is due to the debit of grain allowance by transfer from "32—Miscellaneous."
Supplies and Services	4,55,719	4,85,216	4,84,600	4,90,705	4,90,000	5,03,482	
Contingencies	1,64,614	1,75,382	1,54,694	1,54,534	1,58,000	1,54,231	
Process-serving Establishment ...	7,30,720	7,81,543	7,71,745	7,51,044	7,42,000	7,38,000	
Charges for the defence of India Act ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	80,000	1,00,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—111	.....	—441	
Total ...	44,76,042	47,05,781	47,91,558	46,49,000	49,00,000	48,22,000	
Courts of Small Causes	1,61,324	1,91,373	1,93,780	1,96,000	2,46,000	2,66,000	Increase due to the transfer of the charges for the Mufassal Small Causes Courts to this head.
Criminal Courts—							
General Establishment	19,82,411	20,48,302	21,13,305	22,08,000	21,56,000	21,76,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings under Salaries.
Subdivisional Establishment	1,59,479	1,67,515	1,70,364	1,48,000	1,72,000	1,50,000	
Revision of chowkidari panchayats ...	2,356	6,284	5,548	71,900	6,000	6,000	
Police-Case Hospitals	.....	.....	3,849	5,000	4,000	5,000	
Rewards	.....	.....	479	9,000	1,000	1,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+100	.....	.....	
Total ...	21,44,246	22,22,101	22,93,545	24,42,000	23,39,000	23,38,000	
Pleadership Examination charges ...	16,979	16,952	15,777	21,000	18,000	18,000	
Refunds	67,623	70,573	71,791	80,000	70,000	70,000	
Total ...	96,39,400	1,00,37,547	1,03,78,200	1,01,24,000	1,05,40,000	1,00,20,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

19B.—*Jails*—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Superintendence	65,797	59,969	61,016	63,000	62,500	61,000	
Establishments—							
Superintendents and Jailors	2,03,542	2,02,249	2,09,011	1,79,000	1,83,000	1,81,000	
Medical	29,910	33,847	31,663	33,000	30,000	34,500	
Clerical, Educational and Mechanical ...	10,770	12,658	13,585	14,000	13,000	13,000	
Warders	2,03,397	2,17,091	2,21,171	2,50,000	2,30,500	2,68,500	Budget includes provision for revision of establishment. Decrease in revised is for non-utilization of the provision for revision as the sanction has not yet come.
Menial and others	3,669	2,773	2,925	1,000	2,000	1,000	
Dietary charges	1,77,981	6,62,695	6,49,855	6,25,000	7,07,000	7,70,000	Increase both in revised and budget is with reference to actuals, and increase in the number of prisoners.
Hospital charges	71,676	79,015	68,665	65,000	71,000	75,000	
Clothing and bedding of prisoners ...	54,479	49,995	75,454	51,000	90,000	74,000	Ditto ditto ditto
Sanitation charges	22,879	23,694	23,544	26,000	26,000	33,000	
Charges for moving prisoners	35,943	38,334	39,951	46,000	46,000	50,000	
Miscellaneous services and supplies ...	1,01,286	1,23,899	1,02,790	1,14,000	1,21,000	1,39,000	Budget includes Rs. 25,000 for temporary accommodation required in the several Jails to meet overcrowded conditions.
Allowances	12,680	19,047	21,159	11,000	21,000	11,000	Increase in revised is due to debit of grain allowance by transfer from "32—Miscellaneous."
Contingent charges	82,951	87,408	43,653	56,000	45,000	48,000	
Extraordinary charges for live-stock, tools and plant	18,122	23,288	23,280	21,000	25,500	25,000	
Charges for police custody	18,235	17,538	18,480	24,000	24,000	24,000	
Bonus	—123	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Charges for the distribution of quinine by the Juvenile Jail	4,207	3,193	16,089	5,000	32,500	16,000	
Total Jails ...	14,17,401	16,56,698	16,22,241	15,84,000	17,30,000	18,24,000	
Jail manufactures	5,44,013	6,06,184	7,26,334	6,09,000	7,00,000	7,25,000	Increase in revised is due to larger outlay on raw materials and European stores. Budget follows the actuals of 1914-15.
Refunds	418	.....	2,253	2,000	1,000	1,000	
Total ...	19,61,832	22,62,882	23,50,828	21,95,000	24,31,000	25,50,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

20—Police—

Presidency Police—							
Police Commissioner (Superintendence) ...	1,38,337	1,62,120	1,55,032	1,56,000	1,48,000	1,54,000	
Calcutta Police	12,15,083	13,36,930	14,69,952	14,33,960	15,46,000	15,00,000	Increase in revised is due to enhancement of pay of constables and head-constables and for the adjustment of the charges for grain allowance by transfer from "32—Miscellaneous."
Hospital charges	32,258	38,656	33,470	39,000	30,000	40,000	
Dock Police	.....	.....	7,490	.....	13,000	.....	
Special Police	35,522	37,866	31,082	33,102	32,000	31,000	
Police Training School	.....	.....	17,470	27,000	23,000	30,000	
Cattle-pounds	2,887	3,466	3,953	3,638	4,000	4,000	
River Police	20,674	13,790	21,602	30,000	30,000	27,000	
Police dead-house	2,093	2,262	2,112	2,700	3,000	4,800	
Bonus	2,256	—5	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Lump provision	.....	.....	.....	20,000	.....	56,906	Budget includes Rs 25,000 for the third Company of Armed Police and Rs. 26,260 for additional European Police for trading quarters, and Rs. 5,646 for supply of arms to Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Calcutta Police to guard against armed dacoits.
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—400	.....	—706	
Total ...	14,49,110	15,95,085	17,42,161	17,45,000	18,29,000	18,47,000	
Superintendence	2,22,171	3,15,607	3,07,944	2,34,000	3,04,000	2,97,000	Increase due to the appointment of an additional Deputy Inspector-General and a second personal assistant, officer on special duty, and additional staff.
District Police Force—							
Salaries	5,58,526	5,93,728	6,13,256	6,28,000	6,42,000	6,25,000	
Police Force	30,60,900	32,70,774	36,09,476	39,00,000	39,87,000	40,50,000	
Training Schools	1,23,111	1,31,658	1,39,281	1,45,000	1,63,000	1,60,000	
Establishment	1,99,662	2,14,860	2,07,882	2,07,000	2,03,000	2,72,000	Increase due to revision of boat establishment and fixed boat hire in the Eastern Bengal districts.
Hospital charges	46,293	50,849	51,978	54,000	47,000	58,000	
Allowances	5,30,455	6,84,616	8,10,849	7,00,000	9,12,000	7,97,000	Increase in revised is due to larger expenditure on travelling charges and adjustment of charges for grain allowance. Budget allows larger grant for travelling allowances with reference to actuals.
Supplies and Services	6,42,299	8,14,465	9,45,393	6,56,000	8,28,000	7,22,000	Budget allows larger grant for ordnance stores, purchase of arms, cost of telephone lines, Law charges, clothing, rewards and cost of railway warrants.
Contingencies	2,41,040	3,49,411	3,92,183	2,81,000	4,06,000	3,23,000	Budget includes Rs. 37,856 for temporary boat establishment.
Other Police	2,94,402	3,54,718	3,54,213	2,91,000	2,91,000	3,30,000	Budget includes Rs. 60,000 for the reorganization of River Police.

20—*Police*—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	
District Police Force—*concluded*							
Bonus	—438	—93	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Lump provision for additional force and Police reforms	.....	... ...	.....	5,25,000	1,31,060	3,64,000	Buildings for Subordinate Police (Rs. 1,58,670) and other urgent requirements.
Total ...	56,96,250	64,64,986	71,24,841	73,87,000	76,10,000	77,01,000	
Village Police	19,874	34,020	5,907	8,000	27,000	6,000	Increase in revised is due to grant to meet the remission of chaukidari tax in distressed tracts
Criminal Investigation Department ...	4,06,163	4,78,209	5,39,973	5,31,000	5,68,000	5,94,000	Budget provides larger grant for travelling allowances, rewards and Secret Service money and miscellaneous charges.
Special Police—							
Assam Frontier Police	291	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	
Bengal Military Police	2,51,826	2,02,851	2,50,015	2,50,000	2,73,000	2,65,000	Budget includes larger grant for clothing and cost of railway warrants for recruitment.
Frontier Police, Chittagong	42,841	43,355	46,012	45,000	44,500	47,000	
Upper Burma Police charges ...	6,032	6,542	6,465	6,400	6,500	6,700	
Bonus	63	.....	.....	—400	.....	+300	
Total ...	3,01,053	2,52,748	3,02,492	3,01,000	3,24,000	3,19,000	
Railway Police—							
Jorhat State Railway Police	1,557	1,547	1,638	1,634	2,090	1,852	
Debru-Sadiya Railway Police ...	2,537	1,052	5,447	491	6,000	3,013	
Dhera-Mymensingh Railway Police ...	3,599	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
East Indian Railway Police	79,901	92,243	94,403	75,000	97,000	80,000	
Eastern System Railway Police ...	1,73,252	2,00,883	2,17,797	2,14,000	2,22,000	2,25,000	Budget includes larger grant for rent, rates and taxes.
Bengal and North-Western and Tirhut State Railway Police	32	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	

Bengal-Nagpur Railway	22,516	15,784	12,317	20,000	13,000	17,000	
Cooch-Behar Police	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Assam-Bengal Railway Police	18,557	14,705	14,630	14,034	20,000	18,642	
Bonus	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—159	.....	—507	
Total ...	3,01,972	3,26,214	3,46,232	3,25,000	3,60,000	3,45,000	
Cattle-pounds	134	236	132	250	500	250	
Refunds	3,132	3,976	2,861	3,750	3,500	4,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—250	
GRAND TOTAL ..	83,99,859	94,71,081	1,03,72,545	1,07,35,000	1,10,26,000	1,11,12,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

21—Ports and Pilotage—

Salaries and allowances of officers and men afloat	1,24,693	1,07,006	1,04,765	1,18,000	1,36,000	1,36,000	Increase due to extra expenses for manning the steamer *Guide* up to seagoing standard for employment on station duty at Port Blair.
Victualling of officers and men afloat ...	27,771	29,599	30,073	32,000	40,000	34,000	Increase in revised is due to rise in the price of food-stuffs.
Purchase of marine stores and coal for the building, repairs and outfit of ships and vessels	1,22,569	1,19,825	1,71,177	1,45,000	1,48,000	1,31,000	
Purchase and hire of ships and vessels ...	16,850	25,476	111	20,000	.....	.....	The charge is now adjusted against State yacht establishment shown below.
Pilotage and Pilot establishment ...	8,18,545	7,97,579	7,24,763	8,21,000	7,28,000	6,56,500	Decrease is due to the dislocation of seaborne trade which has reduced the earnings of pilots.
Marine establishment	3,763	1,43,872	1,55,538	1,43,000	1,31,000	1,37,000	Decrease in revised is due to the post of the Deputy Port Officer remaining vacant for some time and also to saving on account of house-allowance of the Engineer and Ship-wright-Surveyor
Subsidies to Steamboat Companies ...	8,494	2,575	2,270	3,320	2,300	3,320	
Miscellaneous	29,329	1,87,103	1,62,245	1,81,000	1,80,000	1,85,000	
State yacht establishment	9,906	10,572	19,039	12,000	36,000	32,000	Increase is due to adjustment under this head of the charges for hire of vessels in connection with His Excellency's tour.
Refunds	4,089	5,130	5,703	5,000	3,700	5,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+180	.....	+180	
Total	12,16,009	14,28,377	13,78,205	14,76,000	14,05,000	13,30,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

22—*Education*—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Calcutta University	5,15,000	1,18,500	2,73,960	1,15,000	1,15,000	1,15,000	The actuals of 1914-15 included a special payment of Rs. 1,59,000.
Direction	1,78,080	1,51,032	1,62,563	1,58,000	1,68,000	1,52,000	
Inspection—							
Inspector of European schools ...	18,162	11,255	12,821	13,000	12,000	13,000	
Inspectors of other schools	7,38,617	7,41,347	8,90,109	7,54,000	8,78,000	8,49,000	Increase due to increase of salaries and allowances.
Inspector of hostels and students' messes	.....	5,204	4,026	4,000	5,500	5,000	
Inspector of technical schools and of industries	25,709	25,402	26,980	29,000	27,500	28,000	
Bonus	110	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	7,82,598	7,83,208	9,33,936	8,00,000	9,23,000	8,95,000	
Government Colleges—General—							
English Colleges—							
Arts Colleges for boys	7,45,673	7,43,075	8,77,858	7,85,000	8,58,000	8,18,000	Increase due to increase of salaries.
Arts Colleges for girls	30,655	34,660	43,831	40,000	40,000	45,000	Increase due to the appointment of a temporary lecturer.
Eden Hindu Hostel	30,391	35,900	32,929	40,000	34,000	33,000	
Oriental Colleges—							
Sanskrit College	33,425	31,738	40,805	32,000	36,000	35,000	Increase due to increase of salaries.
Elliott Madrassah and other attached hostels	10,065	10,551	8,682	10,000	.....	.....	
Cost of maintaining messes attached to Government Colleges in Calcutta ...	.....	.....	.....	5,808	.....	5,808	
Deduct—Probable savings ...	.....	.....	.....	—808	.....	—808	
Total ...	8,50,209	8,55,924	10,04,105	9,12,000	9,68,000	9,36,000	

Government Colleges, Professional—							
Law Colleges	15,185	18,353	19,206	16,500	19,000	19,000	Budget includes Rs. 4,000 for fees to professors at Chittagong and Rajshahi Colleges for law lectures
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, Howrah	3,20,920	2,62,146	2,66,026	2,60,000	2,82,000	2,62,000	
Mining Instruction in the coalfields ...	5,658	5,190	4,293	5,000	5,000	7,607	
Training Colleges for teachers ...	58,812	71,635	71,587	73,000	72,000	73,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—500	.....	+393	
Total ...	4,00,575	3,57,324	3,61,112	3,54,000	3,78,000	3,62,000	
Government Schools, General—							
District School Committees	396	443	374	500	400	500	
Secondary Schools—							
For boys—							
High Schools	5,00,887	5,21,888	5,89,148	5,20,000	5,77,000	6,10,000	Increase due to provision for the new residential school at Hastings House, Alipore
Middle English Schools	88,640	1,08,478	1,17,785	1,14,000	1,14,000	1,28,000	Increase due to increase of salaries and larger grant for boarding charges.
Middle Vernacular Schools	3,169	3,163	2,800	3,000	3,000	3,000	
For girls—							
High Schools	80,594	1,06,467	1,06,927	1,03,000	1,08,000	1,05,000	Increase due to larger grant for rents, rates and taxes according to actual requirements
Middle English Schools	59,426	71,483	80,301	83,000	90,000	92,000	Increase due to increase of salaries and larger grant for boarding charges
Middle Vernacular Schools	7,713	5,250	6,631	5,000	4,600	4,000	
Female Education Committee ...	.....	250	121	300	.....	.....	
Primary Schools—							
For boys—							
Upper Primary Schools	4,221	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Lower Primary Schools	.....	1,229	1,922	2,800	2,000	2,000	
For girls—							
Upper Primary Schools	23,036	4,546	3,707	7,000	4,000	4,000	
Lower Primary Schools	.....	18,100	18,055	19,000	18,000	16,000	

22—*Education*—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Circle School grant	40,022	41,119	42,336	40,000	42,000	40,000	
Payment in support of local schools under District Boards	11,64,506	13,88,064	11,34,937	2,88,960	8,35,000	2,91,198	Revised includes grants sanctioned by transfer from Imperial grants.
Bonus	—288	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Zenana classes in Eastern Bengal ...	8,813	10,864	12,585	11,000	14,000	13,000	Increase due to provision for two governesses for Dinajpur and Pabna.
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—560	.....	—698	
Total ...	19,81,325	22,81,411	21,25,229	11,97,000	18,12,000	13,08,000	
Government Schools, Special—							
Training Schools—							
For Masters—							
Normal Schools	87,136	84,120	96,020	90,000	92,000	90,000	
Guru-Training Schools	2,14,067	2,13,069	2,48,192	2,16,000	3,00,000	2,50,000	Increase due to larger provision of stipends to pupils
For Mistresses—							
Training Schools	23,474	24,234	22,162	28,000	28,000	32,000	Increase due to larger grant for boarding charges and office expenses.
Calcutta School of Art	26,830	35,252	43,641	44,000	43,000	43,000	
Government Art Gallery	9,840	9,584	9,690	9,000	11,000	7,500	
Engineering and Survey Schools ...	83,123	57,116	60,482	56,000	57,000	58,000	Increase due to increase of salaries.
Technical and Industrial Schools ...	54,530	55,662	70,582	60,000	61,000	65,000	Increase due to larger grant for stipends and scholarships according to actual requirements.
Commercial Schools	24,370	22,642	30,342	24,000	27,000	30,000	Increase due to the appointment of a Professor of Accountancy
Madrassahs	73,590	74,531	93,995	75,000	1,09,000	92,000	Increase due to larger grants to madrassahs to restore the Mohsin Fund which cannot now bear the charges.

Elliot Madrassa and other attached hostels...	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,500	10,000	
Reformatory School	—20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Other miscellaneous schools	1,379	2,308	2,251	5,000	2,300	3,000	
Agricultural classes and agricultural gardens	.....	303	111	2,500	200	500	
Bonus ...	114	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—500	.....	.....	
Total ...	5,98,433	5,78,827	6,77,468	6,09,000	7,39,000	6,81,000	
Grants-in-aid	17,24,594	20,99,939	31,11,918	15,06,000	20,75,000	14,80,000	Revised includes grants sanctioned by transfer from the Imperial grants.
Scholarships	2,24,400	2,41,638	2,41,616	2,44,000	2,37,000	2,44,000	
Miscellaneous	1,20,518	6,42,200	3,13,636	1,44,000	1,80,000	1,91,000	Revised includes charges sanctioned from Imperial grants for boarding hostel expenses. Budget includes the pay and other expenses of Dr. J. C. Bose.
Lump provision for improving popular education	.....	.....	.....	9,25,000	1,32,000	9,25,000	
Lump provision for secondary education ...	.....	.....	.....	1,50,000	.....	1,50,000	
Lump provision for female education (recurring)	.....	.....	...	30,000	27,000	30,000	
Dacca University and hostels (non-recurring)	... ..	.....	..	[illegible]	.....	.....	
Ditto ditto (recurring) ...	.....	.....	.....	45,000	.....	45,000	
Calcutta University for hostels	.....	.....	.....	10,00,000	9,50,000	50,000 2,23,000	
Expenditure from the non-recurring grant of 75 lakhs	.....	... ..	.....	81,000	11,000	71,000	
Expenditure of the recurring grant ...	.....	.....	...	13,20,000	2,00,000	8,20,000	
Ditto of further grant	.....	.....	... ..	1,50,000	44,000	1,50,000	
Refunds	1,097	2,512	1,479	3,000	2,000	2,000	
Total ...	73,76,829	81,12,515	92,07,022	1,07,62,000	89,61,000	88,30,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

24—Medical—

Heads.	Actuals			1915-16.		1916-17	Remarks.
	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	
Medical establishment—							
Superintendence	71,388	69,060	68,927	81,000	72,000	72,000	Decrease due to the non-appointment of an Indian Medical Service officer as Personal Assistant.
District Medical establishment ...	4,32,112	4,20,714	4,11,713	3 91,000	3,89,000	3,73,000	Decrease due to the deputation of several Indian Medical Service officers to military duty.
Reserve Medical Officers and Subordinates	9,600	11,671	17,061	12,000	11,000	20,000	
Bonus	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	5,13,109	5,01,445	4 97,701	4,84,000	4,72,000	4 65,000	
Hospitals and Dispensaries—							
Presidency Hospitals and Dispensaries—							
Medical College Hospital	3,64,393	4,09,790	3,74,160	3,59,000	3,74,000	3,64,000	Budget provides for larger grant for medical stores locally purchased.
General Hospital	2,43,527	2,51,634	2,49,533	2,41,000	2,39,000	2,40,000	
Campbell Hospital	1,25,706	1,41,572	1,47 292	1,41,000	1,52,000	1,47,000	Budget provides for larger grant for medical stores, electric current, and rents, rates and taxes.
Albert Victor Asylum for Lepers ...	37,707	36,213	34,167	35,000	38,000	35,000	
Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	1,08,402	1 02,337	1 13,423	93,000	1,12,000	1,12,000	Budget provides for larger grant for salaries, medical stores, and rents, rates and taxes, and also for revision of nursing establishment of the Sambhu Nath Pundit Hospital.
Grants to Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	2,12,209	3,61,363	4,18,946	1,35,000	1,52,000	1,52,000	Budget includes Rs. 22,465 for grants to dispensaries for the discontinuance of the privilege of obtaining alcoholic preparations and tinctures at special reduced rates from Messrs. Smith Stanistreet & Co., on account of supply by Government to the latter of duty-free spirits.
Medical charges in connection with the Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	1,279	813	590	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Bonus	—16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	10,93,207	13,03,722	13,38,111	10,05,000	10,68,000	10,51,000	
Sanitation and Vaccination	3,60,086	3,13,063	3,88,447	3,07,000	2,88,000	2,73,000	Decrease due to the deputation of officers to military duty.

Grants for medical purposes—							
Expenses during the prevalence of plague	13,844	13,743	13,838	15,080	14,000	16,228	
Contribution to Lady Minto's Nursing Association	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Expenses during the prevalence of epidemics	1,249	555	1,651	1,000	1,700	1,700	
Value of medical stores supplied to charitable institutions	1,003	500	300	500	300	500	
Exchange compensation allowance ...	84	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+ 420	.....	—428	
Total grants for medical purposes ...	16.177	14.798	15,789	17.000	16 000	18.000	
Medical Schools and Colleges—							
Medical Colleges	2.97.843	3,44,959	3.32,953	3,49,000	3.35,000	3,51,000	
Medical Schools	1,13,503	1,22,813	1.23.257	1.30,000	1.26.000	1.37,000	Increase is under salaries.
Total ...	4,11,346	4.67,772	4.56,210	4,79.000	4.61,000	4,88,000	
Lunatic Asylums	1.65,754	1,80.677	1,83 919	1,84,000	1.92,000	1.92,000	Budget includes larger grant for diet and clothing, and rents, rates and taxes.
Special Hospitals	10,601	10.026	12.393	10.000	11,000	11.000	
Chemical Examiner	58.851	40,940	53.737	59,000	41,000	42,000	Decrease due to the permanent Chemical Examiner being on military duty.
Refunds	13,002	18.016	68.847	15.000	18.000	20.000	The actuals of 1914-15 included Rs. 50.000 refunded to the Indian Research Fund Association, being the amount contributed by that body for jungle-clearing.
Lump recurring grant for non-recurring expenditure on sanitation	.....	.....	.....	9,50.000	1.75.000	2,50,000	Decrease in revised is due chiefly to non-utilization of the full grant and partly to transfer of charges to the Public Works Department and to the head Civil Works in charge of Civil officers.
Grant for medical relief	.....	.....	.....	20,000	.....	.....	These grants will not be utilized in 1915-16.
Lump grant for School of Tropical Medicine	.....	.....	.....	63,000	.....	.....	
Ditto State Medical Faculty ...	.....	.....	.....	10.000	7,000	10,000	
Ditto Bengal Council of Medical Registration.	.....	.....	.....	10,000	3,000	5,000	
GRAND TOTAL ...	26,42,133	28 50,459	30,15,154	36.13,000	27,52,000	28,25,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals.

25—Political—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned. estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Political Agents	11,854	14,262	11,280	15,700	9,000	14,000	Decrease in revised is due to the appointment of the Political Agent being vacant till July 1915.
Durbar presents and allowances to Vakils, etc.	23,750	15,213	2,646	10,000	5,000	7,000	Budget based on probable requirements.
Miscellaneous	3,372	3,500	4,432	4,300	10,000	2,500	Revised includes a special charge of Rs. 3,000.
						—500	
Total ...	38,976	32,975	18,358	30,000	24,000	23,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

26A—Agriculture—

Veterinary charges—							
Superintendence	20,208	20,741	30,689	21,000	24,500	24,000	Includes provision for a Deputy Superintendent and his travelling allowance.
Veterinary Instruction	1,08,947	1,13,196	1,28,818	1,45,000	1,45,000	1,45,000	
Subordinate establishment	26,202	25,955	25,652	38,000	29,000	32,000	
Hospitals and dispensaries	8,314	17,026	23,012	16,000	25,000	28,000	Budget includes larger grant for travelling allowances.
Cattle-breeding operations	1,307	49	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Cattle survey	5,841	137	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Bacteriology	13,029	13,167	13,124	13,000	13,500	13,000	
Bonus	—12	.....	.....	.....	.....	... ..	
Probable savings	.....	.....	.....	—1,000	.....	.....	
Total ...	1,83,836	1,90,271	2,21,295	2,32,000	2,37,000	2,42,000	
Agriculture—							
Superintendence	76,031	69,265	69,456	74,000	70,000	73,000	
Expert staff	91,420	90,843	1,22,977	1,45,000	1,91,000	1,93,000	Budget includes larger grant for travelling allowances and contingencies with reference to actual requirements.
Agricultural College	124	.....	... ..	.....	.....	.....	
Agricultural experiments	19,907	60,599	64,157	48,000	55,000	42,500	
Experimental farms	74,804	1,22,926	1,25,705	1,21,000	1,41,000	1,18,000	
Divisional Seeds Stores	10,900	7,231	10,048	14 000	6,000	23,000	
Distribution of Agricultural Literature ...	...	.....	499	.....	.....	.....	

Sericulture	73,923	99,382	1,09,872	1,51,000	1,36,000	1,13,000	Decrease due to smaller grants for petty construction and repairs and miscellaneous contingencies.
Botanical Garden at Sibpur ...	89,805	81,986	1,06,546	1,10,000	1,11,000	1,03,000	Decrease due to smaller grant for contingencies according to requirements.
Grants to Public Gardens	29,158	31,298	30,026	30,000	30,000	30,000	
Zoological Gardens, Calcutta ...	5,283	5,251	5,024	5,400	5,500	5,640	
Botanical Gardens at Darjeeling ...	14,093	13,986	14,605	14,000	14,000	14,000	
Other Government Gardens ...	39,180	40,098	42,483	44,784	46,500	42,747	
Public exhibitions and fairs ...	2,622	1,408	6,891	6,000	8,000	6,000	
Bonus	.....	426	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—184	.....	—887	
Total ...	5,27,250	6,25,099	7,08,289	7,63,000	8,14,000	7,63,000	
Co-operative Societies	61,051	91,406	92,577	1,02,000	1,10,000	1,24,000	Budget includes provision for additional auditors and larger grant for travelling allowances.
Lump provision for Agriculture and allied subjects	.....	.....	.....	20,000	.....	.....	
GRAND TOTAL ...	7,72,137	9,06,776	10,22,161	11,17,000	11,61,000	11,29,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

26B—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—

Scientific—							
Cinchona plantations	6,67,845	2,73,788	2,37,142	2,14,500	2,04,000	2,22,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings under contingencies of the factory. Budget includes larger provision for the same.
Donations to scientific societies ...	15,200	11,984	17,120	11,870	20,200	16,000	Increase due to the inclusion of the grant to the Dacca Museum.
Imperial Institute	.....	40	22	100	.....	.....	
Labour and Emigration—							
Emigration	22,224	22,619	22,526	23,000	22,000	22,500	
Inland Labour Transport	22,686	22,014	29,615	25,000	24,000	29,000	
Inspector of Factories	60,086	57,888	56,256	68,000	56,000	65,000	Decrease in revised is due to vacancy in the post of Certifying Surgeon.
Statistics—							
Gazetteer and Statistical Memoirs ...	3,726	870	1,920	7,000	3,000	7,000	Estimate based on probable requirements.
Registration of railway traffic ...	9,933	7,602	9,256	8,000	10,000	9,000	
Registration of river-borne traffic ...	5,653	4,135	4,805	5,000	4,600	5,000	
Provincial statistics	30,150	25,769	24,766	25,000	25,000	26,100	

28B—*Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments*—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Miscellaneous—							
Preservation and translation of ancient manuscripts	7,625	9,250	11,220	9,000	9,000	9,000	
Examinations	422	674	971	1,500	1,000	1,200	
Fishery Department	45,415	81,583	55,927	57,000	43,000	55,000	Decrease in revised is due to the abandonment of certain fishery experiments.
Smoke Nuisances Commission ...			24,403	25,500	25,000	26,000	
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies ...	.....	.....	18,701	23,000	16,000	20,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings in the grant for establishment and contingencies.
Inspector of Mines	125	119	75	100	100	100	
Refunds	726	688	1,383	1,500	1,100	1,100	
Lump provision for Director of Industries ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30,000	
Ditto for Development of Industries	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,00,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—70	.....	.....	
Total ...	8,91,816	5,19,023	5,16,108	5,05,000	4,64,000	6,44,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

29—*Superannuation*—

Covenanted Civil Service pensions ...	45,000	45,000	45,938	45,000	46,000	45,000	
Superannuation and retired allowances ...	28,54,278	29,50,154	29,80,253	31,55,000	30,25,000	31,00,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals. Budget provides for normal growth of expenditure.
Compassionate allowances	2,648	4,005	4,155	5,000	5,000	5,000	
Gratuities	14,932	12,481	27,933	15,000	26,000	20,000	
Ports and Pilotage pensions	8,493	8,194	8,233	8,500	.....	.....	Expenditure is now adjusted under Superannuation and retired allowances.
Refunds	337	219	.....	500	1,000	1,000	
Commuted value of pensions	.....	80,235	1,32,136	2,00,000	70,000	2,00,000	
Total ...	29,25,688	31,00,288	31,98,648	34,29,000	31,73,000	33,71,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

30—Stationery and Printing—

Forms Department at the Presidency ...	52,002	59,712	65,264	.....	.....	.....	The Forms Department has been amalgamated with the Presidency Jail Press from 1915-16.
Stationery purchased in the country ...	23,130	25,085	33,030	28,000	32,000	32,000	
Government Presses	6,24,717	6,36,085	5,66,836	6,94,000	6,51,000	6,62,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings under Over time and Contingencies. Decrease in budget is on account of smaller requirements of European stores for the Presidency Jail Press.
Printing at private presses	1,222	2,505	2,869	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Stationery supplied from Central Stores ...	6,32,102	7,58,232	6,00,918	6,60,000	6,30,000	6,50,000	
Refunds	1,256	2,907	809	2,000	1,000	1,000	
Total ...	13,34,429	14,85,406	12,69,717	13,87,000	13,17,000	13,48,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months

32—Miscellaneous—

Miscellaneous charges for the treatment of patients of the Pasteur Institute ...	1,296	1,129	2,081	1,000	2,000	2,000	
Travelling allowances to officers attending examinations	7,150	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	The charges are debited to the same head as salaries
Reward for proficiency in Oriental languages, and allowance to the Language Examination Committee	4,017	4,378	8,788	4,000	13,000	10,000	Based on actuals.
Cost of books and publications ...	8,112	1,100	873	1,000	600	600	
Donations for charitable purposes ...	2,30,273	2,20,731	1,89,409	1,70,000	2,00,000	1,65,000	
Charges on account of European vagrants ...	7,960	4,991	6,965	6,000	5,500	6,000	Based on actuals.
Rewards for destruction of wild animals ...	13,953	19,534	18,675	17,000	19,000	20,000	
Petty establishments	37,697	57,419	25,049	21,000	24,000	20,000	Budget based on actual requirements
Special Commissions of Enquiry ...	52,274	1,09,840	96,858	20,000	20,000	10,000	
Irrecoverable temporary loans written off ...	2,323	5,507	285	3,000	600	3,000	
Rent, rates and taxes	45,495	40,305	26,592	40,000	27,000	27,000	Based on actuals.
Contributions	3,396	10,342	19,921	14,000	20,000	14,000	This is for guarantees to new telegraph lines wanted urgently for administrative purposes.

32—Miscellaneous—concluded.

HEADS.	ACTUALS.			1915-16.		1916-17.	REMARKS.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	
Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges ...	4,804	99,160	31,970	3,06,000	3,06,000	5,30,000	Revised includes 3 lakhs for expenditure on gratuitous relief. Budget includes 2¼ lakhs for gratuitous relief. 1 lakh for His Excellency's petty grants and 2 lakhs for general reserve.
Extraordinary items	.....	229	.....	.....	.. ...	.....	
Miscellaneous refunds	2,732	9,716	7,116	8,000	8,300	7,400	
Annual stipend to holders of literary titles	4,092	2,908	2,300	3,000	2,000	3,000	
Lump provision for grain compensation allowance for all departments ...	.....	.....	.....	4,00,000	.....	4,00,000	The charges are adjusted under appropriate heads.
Charges for search of hidden treasure ...	36	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Books and subscriptions to periodicals ...	.....	2,138	1,326	2,000	10,000	10,000	Both budget and revised includes payment of Rs. 183 a week for copies of *Moslem Hitaishi*.
Total ...	4,25,610	5,87,418	4,38,208	10,16,000	6,58,000	12,28,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

42—Irrigation—Major Works (Working Expenses)—

Midnapore Canal	2,06,943	1,78,785	1,32,836	1,97,000	1,40,000	1,65,500	Decrease in revised is chiefly under maintenance and repairs.
Hijli Tidal Canal	28,774	1,19,004	1,24,864	70,000	60,000	24,500	
Total ...	2,35,717	2,97,789	2,57,700	2,67,000	2,00,000	1,90,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.
Provincial share ...	1,17,858	1,48,895	1,28,850	1,33,000	1,00,000	95,000	

42—Irrigation—Major Works (Interest on Debt)—

Interest	3,51,236	3,39,987	3,51,156	3,40,000	3,51,000	3,51,000	Midnapore Canal—Outlay to end of 1914-15 (Rs. 82,39,830) at 8·4992 per cent. Hijili Tidal Canal—Outlay to end of 1914-15 (Rs. 17,95,489) at 8·4992 per cent.
Provincial share	1,75,618	1,69,993	1,75,578	1,70,000	1,76,000	1,76,000	There will be no capital outlay during 1915-16 and 1916-17.

43—*Minor Works and Navigation*—

IN CHARGE OF THE CIVIL DEPARTMENT.						
Embankments under the contract system—						
Establishments	1,882	1,597	1,575	1,512	1,500	1,512
Contingencies	48	361	19,709	400	500	448
Allowance	.....	6	30	.....	.....	.....
Rounding	.....	.....	.....	+88	.....	+40
Total in charge of the Civil Department ...	1,930	1,964	21,314	2,000	2,000	2,000
Provincial share	965	982	10,657	1,000	1,000	1,000
IN CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.						
IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION WORKS						
Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.						
CAPITAL.						
Works in progress.						
Midnapore Canal	1,198	180	.....	13,000	.....	.....
Hooghly-Bidyadhari Canal	12,741	20,218	3,489	.....	.....	.....
Calcutta and Eastern Canals	—82,320	—77,523	5,31,985	—79,000	(—)56,550	—1,74,700
Budget represents the credit anticipated on account of the hire of the dredgers *Foyers* and *Alexandra*.						
Madaripur Bhil Scheme	95,489	2,34,705	1,55,910	.....	2,64,000	1,72,500
Represents cost of constructing an embankment with sluices along the south side of the Bhil Channel and dredging the Lower Kumar River at Char Maguria						
Orissa Coast Canal	.....	1,725	.....	.....	.....	.....
Utterbagh Lock	73,852	31,383	19,229	.....	3,800	.....
Survey of the proposed Grand Trunk Canal	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,300	.....
Total Capital ...	1,00,960	2,07,238	7,10,613	—56,000	2,15,550	—2,200
REVENUE.						
Utterbagh Lock	.....	.....	.....	.....	500	1,200
Orissa Coast Canal	19,227	27,656	.....	.....	.....	.....
Calcutta and Eastern Canals	4,39,561	3,88,924	4,31,202	7,57,000	6,97,400	8,95,000
Budget includes provision for working two dredgers.						
Madaripur Bhil Scheme ...	92,917	1,17,560	2,21,849	1,74,500	94,000	72,000
Decrease in revised is due to transfer of grant to Capital.						
Total Revenue ...	5,51,705	5,34,140	6,53,051	9,31,500	7,91,900	9,68,200
Total Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept	6,52,665	7,41,378	13,63,664	8,65,500	10,07,450	9,66,600

43—*Minor Works and Navigation*—concluded.

HEADS	ACTUALS.			1915-16.		1916-17.	REMARKS.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
WORKS IN PROGRESS.							
Orissa Coast Canal	.....	.....	12,627	22,000	22,000	21,000	
Nadia Rivers	1,38,461	1,29,341	97,784	1,28,000	1,13,000	99,000	
Gaighatta and Buxi khals	8,637	289	301	500	400	600	
Total Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept	1,47,098	1,29,630	1,10,712	1,50,500	1,35,400	1,20,600	
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.							
WORKS IN PROGRESS.							
Eden Canal	20,684	39,837	68,215	59,000	75,300	51,450	Revised includes Rs. 15,000 for completing the second supply sluice and other works.
Improvement of navigable channels—Ganges river	.....	.....	.....	40,000	40,000	15,000	
Dredging the Bhagirathi entrance ...	54,332	61,847	66,239	18,000	19,800	23,000	
Dredging the Gorai entrance		.....	30,563				
Other works		9,617	1,107				
Bhagirathi observation	.....	.....	18,232	15,000	14,358	12,000	
Creating a spill from Bidyadhari river ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,30,000	1,00,000	This work is urgently required.
Dredging the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers	.....						
Bandalling and putting on spurs on the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers ...	48,691	82,957	93,229	86,500	69,279	55,950	Budget includes Rs. 35,000 for training works in the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers by bandelling
Grant-in-aid for bandalling the Ganges near Rampur-Boalia	.....						
Improving the channel of the Karnafuli ...	... ..						
Taking tidal observations and making surveys in connection with the proposed canalisation of the Bidyadhari and Peali rivers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Observation of rivers in the Birbhum District	.....	3,352	.....	.....	.....	500	
Survey of river for the enquiry into spill water from Bhutan	...	.....	.....	.....	400	.....	
Total Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept ...	1,23,707	1,97,610	2,77,585	2,18,500	3,49,137	2,57,900	
Total Irrigation and Navigation Works	9,23,470	10,68,618	17,51,961	12,34,500	14,91,987	13,44,500	

AGRICULTURAL AND DRAINAGE WORKS.							
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept and of which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.							
WORKS IN PROGRESS.							
Government embankments							
Midnapore takavi embankments under contract	6,12,837	8,55,839	9,87,733	10,37,500	7,47,662	7 27,500	Budget includes Rs. 2,47 500 for establishment Rs 25,000 for maintenance and repairs of the Magra Hât drainage channels, and the balance mainly for repairs to embankments and drainage works and khas fashil khals.
Rajapur and Howrah drainage							
Magra Hât drainage project							
Total Agricultural ...	6,12,837	8,55,839	9,87,733	10,37,500	7,47,662	7,27,500	
Reserve	.....	.....	.....	20,000	10,351	20,000	
Total in charge of the Public Works Department	15,36,307	19 24,457	27,39,694	22,92,000	22,50,000	20,92,000	
Provincial share	7,68 153	9 62,228	13,69,847	11,46 000	11,25,000	10,46,000	

45—*Civil Works*—

IN CHARGE OF THE CIVIL DEPARTMENT.							
Provision for sub-overseers in each subdivision in Bengal to report on the local condition of rural water-supply ...	.....	13,970	16 745	5,000	4,500	.....	
Ferry charges	2,584	5 461	7 739	9,000	8,000	6,000	
„ refunds	9,505	13 226	14 172	15,000	11,000	27,000	
Staging bungalows	5 650	4 192	4 027	4,000	3,700	3 129	
Encamping grounds	59	1 60	1 095	469	300	250	
Arboriculture	21,146	... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Cemetery establishment	.....	2,139	2,643	4,419	4 500	4,266	
Contributions in aid of excluded local funds and municipalties	4,36,575	5,72 483	3 73 306	1,76 000	1 03 000	1,72,000	
Grant to the Calcutta Improvement Trust ...	11,50,000	11 50 000	11 50 000	11 50,000	11,50,000	1,50 000	
Contribution to district funds and district road funds	8,80,565	7,57,702	8,03 663	8,40,000	9,53,000	7,73,000	Budget represents augmentation grants to district funds.
Grants to other local bodies	.....	34,455	20 339	5,000	4,000	5,000	
Other items	1,74,290	13,585			14,000		
For rounding ...	.....	..	.....	+121	.....	—645	
Total in charge of the Civil Department ...	26,80,384	25,74 263	23,92,099	22,09,000	22,56,000	11,40,000	

45—Civil Works—concluded.

HEADS.	ACTUALS.			1915-16.		1916-17.	REMARKS
	1912-13.	1913-14	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
IN CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	
Original Works.							
Civil Buildings ... { In progress ... / Not commenced ... }	32,39,655	42,47,697	56,32,317	{ 19,83,000 / 3,00,000 }	25,50,000	6,18,000	
Communications ... { In progress ... / Not commenced ... }	1,71,609	3,09,208	4,58,716	{ 4,55,800 / 1,30,100 }	5,80,000	4,50,000	
Miscellaneous Public Improvements. { In progress ... / Not commenced ... }	49,052	1,18,999	66,213	{ 19,100 / ... }	30,000	4,42,000	
Total ...	34,60,316	46,75,904	61,57,246	28,88,000	31,60,000	15,10,000	
Repairs.							
Civil Buildings	8,46,843	10,24,747	13,13,731	13,05,000	12,83,000	13,90,000	
Communications	8,80,979	8,77,704	10,69,871	7,50,000	8,10,000	9,00,000	
Miscellaneous Public Improvements ...	70,971	77,963	1,97,605	1,45,000	1,30,000	1,10,000	
Total ...	17,98,793	19,80,414	24,91,207	22,00,000	22,23,000	24,00,000	
Establishment	9,84,000	9,84,906	11,72,459	13,50,000	12,50,000	13,00,000	
Tools and Plant	47,470	82,852	2,60,713	50,000	63,000	50,000	
Stock and Suspense	31,176	—79,691		.....	1,04,000	.....	
Total in charge of Public Works Department	63,21,755	76,44,385	1,00,81,625	64,88,000	68,00,000	52,60,000	

Mr. Beatson Bell.

*APPENDIX C.

Statement of receipts and charges of District Boards and the District Road Fund in Bengal.

RECEIPTS.

HEADS OF REVENUE.	Actuals, 1914-15	Revised estimate, 1915-16	Budget estimate, 1916-17	REMARKS.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs	
Land Revenue	384	842	842	
Local Rates	61,37,279	63,86,204	65,00,626	Represents collections of both Road and Public Works Cesses
Interest	18,456	26,393	30,380	Includes interest on arrear collections of the Public Works Cess
Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	4,182	3,995	2,520	
Police	3,69,406	3,66,607	3,67,278	Represents receipts from pounds
Education	12,58,930	9,57,711	8,29,800	
Medical	89,580	38,574	30,453	
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	8,797	8,265	7,165	
Stationery and Printing ...	517	900	200	
Miscellaneous	1,21,569	3,02,118	12 841	
Railways	69,650	63,000	71,000	
Irrigation—Minor Works ...	26,764	16,100	18,750	
Civil Works	13,43,008	10,95 745	7,57,471	
Debt, Deposits and Advances ...	6,50,320	6,70,411	5 28,579	
Total ...	1,06,98,842	99,36,865	91,87,305	
Opening balance ...	36,56,322	30,65,284	9,94,326	
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,37,55,164	1 30,02 149	1,01,82,231	

* This item did not appear in the Revised Financial statement as presented in Council on the 13th March, 1916, but was inserted in the Budget form of the Statement presented to the Council on the 27th March 1916

Mr. Beatson Bell.

CHARGES.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	Actuals, 1914-15.	Revised estimate, 1915-16.	Budget estimate, 1916-17.	REMARKS.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	
Refunds	2,650	30,595	20,969	
Land Revenue	44	2,202	3,872	
Local Rates	2,00,487	1,48,096	1,71,160	Represents provision for the entire charges of the Cess-collecting establishment which is wholly borne by the District Boards.
Interest	13,530	6,964	6,590	
General Administration ...	2,51,756	2,87,565	2,95,823	
Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	3,179	4,971	5,452	
Police	22,105	28,412	24,729	
Ports and Pilotage	6,785	10,100	8,300	
Education	24,95,481	26,92,813	21,75,072	
Medical	6,92,358	8,65,600	7,98,200	
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	82,815	1,27,681	1,42,803	
Superannuation and Pensions ...	53,099	62,933	74,276	
Stationery and Printing ...	32,087	35,690	32,475	
Miscellaneous	25,063	31,399	30,769	
Famine Relief	368	1,76,858	34,900	
Railways	3,400	...	...	
Irrigation—Minor Works ...	14,716	2,09,996	...	
Civil Works	61,02,392	66,59,885	51,90,544	
Debt, Deposits and Advances ...	6,87,565	6,26,063	4,89,503	
Total ...	1,06,89,880	1,20,07,823	95,05,437	
Closing balance ...	30,65,284	9,94,326	6,76,794	
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,37,55,164	1,30,02,149	1,01,82,231	

SCHEDULE OF NEW SCHEMES ESTIMATED TO COST MORE THAN Rs. 5,000 IN ANY ONE YEAR WHICH IS PROPOSED TO UNDERTAKE DURING 1916-17.

Obligatory schemes which have been provided for in the budget for 1916-17.

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Nature of scheme	Estimate of ultimate maximum cost.			Estimate of Expenditure in 1916-17.			Remarks.
		Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	Non-recurring	Recurring.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.—Land Revenue.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Charges of District Administration.	Addition to the cadre of Joint-Magistrates and Assistant Magistrates.	.....	52,416	52,416	.....	52,416	52,416	The Secretary of State having sanctioned the addition of four Judges to the cadre of District and Sessions Judges, provision has been made for the following lower appointments :— Rs. 1 Joint-Magistrate, 1st grade, (Rs 900) 4 ... 10,368 2 Ditto, 2nd .. (Rs 700) 4 ... 16,128 3 Assistant Magistrates, (Rs 450) 4 ... 25,920
19A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law.								
High Court	Payment of contract allowance for supply of typewritten transcripts of the evidence of witnesses.	12,000	...	12,000	12,000	...	12,000	The Government of India, in the Home Department letter No 155 C., dated the 20th January 1916, have sanctioned the payment of a contract allowance of Rs. 1,000 to Mr Haydn for supply of typewritten transcripts of the evidence of witnesses given in one court on the Original Side of the High Court and desired that necessary provision be made in next year's budget.
	Creation of a temporary post of Additional Legal Remembrancer.	...	35,000	35,000	...	35,000	35,000	A temporary post of Additional Legal Remembrancer on Rs 2,500 a month has been created for a period of one year for the present. A lump provision of Rs. 35,000 has been made for the salary of the officer, as well as for his establishment and other charges.

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Nature of scheme.	Estimate of ultimate maximum cost.			Estimate of Expenditure in 1916 17.			Remarks.
		Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
19A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law—*concld.*								
District and Sessions Judges	Addition of four District and Sessions Judges and their establishment.	...	1,28,107	1,28,107	...	1,28,107	1,28,107	The scheme has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. It has been decided to add three posts to the 2nd grade and one to the 3rd grade. The details of the cost are :— Rs. A. 3 2nd grade (Rs. 2,500) ... 7,200 0 1 3rd ,, (Rs. 2,000) ... 1,920 0 4 Exchange compensation allowance (Rs. 138-14-3) ... ... 555 9 Total ... 9,675 9 Annual ... ... 1,16,106 12 Establishment 12,000 0
Ditto ...	Charges under the Defence of India Act.	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	The application of the Defence of India Act compels provision to meet charges on account of Commissioners appointed under the Act.
	Total ...	1,12,000	1,63,107	2,75,107	1,12,000	1,63,107	2,75,107	
19B.—Law and Justice—Jails.								
Warder Establishment ...	Employment of 4 European warders in the Presidency Jail.	.....	5,760	5,760	.....	5,760	5,760	Four temporary European warders on Rs. 120 are being employed for some time past. In all probability the services of these four warders will be required during the whole of next year.

20—POLICE.								
Presidency Police ...	Creation of a third Armed Police Company for Calcutta.	6,363	19,937	26,300	6,000	19,000	25,000	Owing to the prevalence of dacoities by dacoits in motor cars, the security of the public offices in Calcutta (*e.g.*, the General Post Office treasury, Collectorate, Small Cause Court treasury, Calcutta Custom House treasury, etc.) has to be ensured by posting armed guards and this cannot be done without an additional company of armed police. The sanction of the Government of India has been applied for and a lump provision of Rs. 25,000 made to meet the charge.
Ditto ...	Supply of arms to Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors	5,646	.....	5,646	5,646	.....	5,646	The recent cases of dacoity in the city by armed bands in motor-cars have rendered it necessary that all Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors should be armed with revolvers. It has therefore been decided to ask the Government of India to sanction the supply of 140 revolvers and 2,000 rounds of revolver ammunition and a provision of Rs. 5,646 has been made in next year's budget on this account.
Superintendence ...	Entertainment of temporary clerks in the offices of the Inspector-General and Deputy Inspectors-General of Police.	.....	10,740	10,740	.....	10,740	10,740	The work of the office has greatly increased in recent years and in view of the recent abnormal development of anarchical crime, an increase of staff to cope with the work is necessary. Provision has therefore been made for 10 clerks.
Ditto ...	Deputation of Mr. J. S. Wilson, Officiating Superintendent of Police.	.....	16,920	16,920	.....	11,280	11,280	Government have already sanctioned the deputation of Mr Wilson to act as Intelligence officer for a period of one year from 6th August 1915 but as the war may not end by that date provision has been made to meet the cost of his deputation till the end of the next financial year.
District Executive Force ...	Addition to the Provincial Force towards the increase of cadre.	3,000	21,810	24,810	.....	19,110	19,110	Rs. Recurring— 150 constables at Rs. 11-8 each ... 1 725 Town allowance of 30 constables (23 for Dacca and 7 for Chittagong) at Re. 1 each ... ... 30 1,755 × 12 21,060 Cost of maintenance of clothing at Rs. 5 each ... ... 750 21 810 Non-recurring— First kit of 150 constables at Rs. 20 each ... ... 3,000 The scheme was sanctioned in Government order No. 9831 P., dated the 26th October 1914, and the non-recurring expenditure incurred in 1914-15.

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Nature of scheme.	Estimate of ultimate maximum cost.			Estimate of Expenditure in 1916-17.			Remarks.
		Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20—Police—*concluded.*		Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	
District Executive Force—*concluded.*	Buildings in connection with the scheme for the reorganization of the Subordinate Police in Eastern Bengal.	4,00,000	.....	4,00,000	1,58,670	.....	1,58,670	The Inspector-General of Police wants four lakhs for works in progress in connection with the scheme for the reorganization of the Subordinate Police Rupees 1,58,670 has been allowed.
Ditto ...	Revision of the scale of armourers in the Civil Police and their allowances.	1,321	7,170	8,491	500	2,000	2,500	The Inspector-General wants provision of Rs. 6,264 (recurring) and Rs. 1,521 (non-recurring) in 1916-17 to introduce this scheme. Owing to financial stringency Rs. 2,500 only has been proposed.
Ditto ...	Retention of the police force for guarding the Falta water-works.	.....	6,271	6,271	.....	6,271	6,271	At the request of the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, arrangements have been made for guarding the water-works at Falta. The present sanction expires at the end of February next, but as it will be necessary to provide guards after that date, provision has been proposed to meet the cost which will be fully recovered from the Calcutta Corporation.
	Amount to be recovered from the Calcutta Corporation.	.....	6,271	6,271	.....	6,271	6,271	
Ditto ...	Supply of extra arms for police stations, headquarters force, mobilised contingents and training schools.	22,048	.....	22,048	5,000	.....	5,000	The sanction of the Government of India is being asked and a lump provision of Rs. 5,000 is proposed to give partial effect to the scheme.
Ditto ...	Entertainment of two Circle Inspectors for Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions in Bakarganj.	147	6,898	7,045	147	6,856	7,003	The work of the Circle Inspectors in the Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions has increased considerably and it has been impossible for one officer at each place to manage it. It is therefore necessary to split up circles and it is proposed to employ— 2 Inspectors. 2 Head constables. 2 Constables.
Ditto ..	Grant of local allowance to constables.	.....	8,424	8,424	.....	8,424	8,424	It is proposed to grant a local allowance of Re. 1 each to constables of both armed and unarmed branches posted on duty to Calcutta Alipore, Sealdah, Belliaghatta and Chitpur.

Other Police	Reorganization of the River Police in Eastern Bengal :—							
	1. Stores for boats ...	.....	2,000	2,000	.....	2,000	2,000	This has already received the sanction of the Secretary of State and effect is being given gradually as funds permit. In the current year's budget a provision of Rs. 39,562 recurring and Rs. 660 non-recurring was made and a lump non-recurring provision of Rs. 4,00,000 provided for all building projects of the Police Department, including those connected with the River Police scheme. The Inspector-General wants for 1916-17 Rs. 3,59,988 for non-recurring and Rs. 51,088 for recurring expenditure. In view of the present state of Provincial finance, it is proposed to provide Rs 60,000 as shown below —
	2. Hospital supplies and furniture.	500	.....	500	500	.....	500	
	3. Crew for four thana launches.	.....	7,824	7,824	.....	7,824	7,824	
	4. Construction of floating quarters for Inspectors.	11,660	.....	11,660	11,660	.....	11,660	
	5. Purchase of arms, including ordnance stores	1,000	500	1,500	1,000	500	1,500	
	6. Contingencies ...	2,500	1,000	3,500	2,500	1,000	3,500	
	7. Cost of dockyard stores.	... ..	5,000	5,000	.....	5,000	5,000	
	8. Repairs to launches	.....	3,000	3,000	.....	3,000	3,000	
	9. Acetylene searchlights for thana launches.	5,000	.....	5,000	5,000	.....	5,000	
	10. Staff for workshop ...	.....	5,100	5,100	.....	5,100	5,100	
	11. Cost of coal and fuel, etc	3,180	.....	3,180	3,180	.....	3,180	
	12. Entertainment of workshop establishment.	... ..	11,736	11,736	.....	11,736	11,736	
	Total ...	23,840	36,160	60,000	23,840	36,160	60,000	
Ditto	Guards for Shell factories	6,330	.....	6,330	6,330	.....	6,330	This represents the cost of supplying guards to watch factories which are making shells and other munitions of war for Government.
Railway Police ...	Reorganization of the Eastern Bengal Railway Police, Sealdah.	1,435	17,881	19,316	1,000	7,000	8,000	It is necessary to increase the police force employed on the Sealdah section of the Eastern Bengal Railway as crime has in recent years developed in several police stations. Extra staff is also necessary for adequate police arrangements in the Sealdah Station which, under the new arrangements, has three separate blocks of platforms with separate booking offices, waiting halls, hackney carriage stands, etc. The scheme was placed in the optional schedule in 1915-16, but on account of financial stringency nothing could be provided. It is now proposed to make a lump provision of Rs 8,000 for this so as to give partial effect to the scheme
	Total ...	4,70,130	1,45,940	6,16,070	2,07,133	1,20,570	3,27,703	

	Rs.
Recurring	36,160
Non-recurring	23,840
	60,000

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Nature of scheme.	Estimate of ultimate maximum cost.			Estimate of Expenditure in 1916-17.			Remarks.
		Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	
22.—Education.								
Direction	Reorganization of the clerical establishment in the office of the Director of Public Instruction.	.....	5,388	5,388	.....	5,388	5,388	This office has not been revised for a long time and the territorial readjustment of 1912 and large Imperial grants have resulted in increased work. The new scheme of revision has already been sanctioned. The total cost of the office is estimated at Rs. 58,020, but Rs. 55,260 only will be required in 1916-17 against Rs. 49,872, the present cost.
Inspection	Inspectors for Muhammadan Education.	.....	25,860	25,860	.....	25,860	25,860	Rs. 5 Inspectors on Rs. 200 each ... 12,000 5 clerks „ „ 30 „ ... 1,800 5 peons „ „ 7 „ ... 420 Travelling allowance ... ... 9,000 Contingencies ... ... 360 Office accommodation ... ... 2,280 In view of the spread of Muhammadan education, 5 Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan Education were sanctioned provisionally for two years in 1914 and the expenditure was met from savings in the Imperial grants, but as this source will not be available in 1916-17 and as these appointments are necessary, it is proposed to make provision in the budget.
	Total ...	.....	31,248	31,248	.....	31,248	31,248	

24—MEDICAL.								
Hospitals and Dispensaries —Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries.	Revision of the Nursing establishment attached to the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital.	2,000	7,868	9,868	.....	6,270	6,270	The scheme has been sanctioned in Government orders No. 586 Medl., dated the 22nd March 1915, and No. 1965 Medl. dated the 23rd September 1915. Provision has been made for the following staff :— Rs. 1 Lady Superintendent at Rs. 225 per mensem 2,700 1 Deputy Superintendent at Rs. 100 per mensem 1,200 1 Assistant Superintendent at Rs 80 ,, ,, 960 8 nurses at Rs. 20 per mensem ... ... 1,920 4 ,, ,, ,, 15 ,, ,, ... 720 8 ,, ,, ,, 10 ,, ,, ... 960 Total ... 8,460 House rent ... ... 2,400 Diet allowance for 20 nurses ... ... 2,400 GRAND TOTAL ... 13,260 *Deduct* amount of expenditure under the old scheme. 6,990 Balance ... 6,270 The sum of Rs. 2,000, non-recurring, is for furniture and has been spent in 1915-16.
26A—AGRICULTURE								
Co-operative Credit ...	Appointment of additional Inspectors as Auditors of Co-operative Societies and menial establishment for them.	.....	13,272	13,272	.....	10,000	10,000	In view of the expansion of the department it is proposed by the Registrar to appoint— Rs. 7 auditors on Rs. 100 + 50 local allowance each ... ... 12,600 7 peons on Rs. 8 each ... 672 But in consideration of financial stringency a lump provision of Rs. 10,000 has been made to give effect to the scheme as far as is absolutely necessary.

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Name of scheme.	Estimate of ultimate maximum cost.			Estimate of Expenditure in 1916-17.			Remarks.
		Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
26B.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Donations to Scientific Societies.	Grant to the Dacca Museum.	...	6,000	6,000	...	6,000	6,000	The Dacca Museum was started in 1912 and a room in the Dacca Secretariat building was allotted for the Museum and various articles of archæological interest that had been deposited in the Dacca Collectorate and elsewhere were transferred to it. The Museum Committee finds it impossible to obtain monetary support from private individuals, municipalities or District Boards. The institution may form the nucleus of the Historical and Natural History Museum of the Dacca University, and as such it is proposed to provide a grant of Rs. 6,000 for its maintenance.
	Appointment of a Director of Industries for Bengal and the scheme for the development of industries of the province.	...	1,30,000	1,30,000	...	1,30,000	1,30,000	The Government of India have already been addressed to obtain sanction of the Secretary of State to the appointment of a Director of Industries for Bengal on a salary of Rs. 1,500—100—2,000 per mensem with his establishment and other charges. The sanction of the Secretary of State has not yet been received. In the budget for 1916-17 a lump provision of Rs. 30,000 has been made on this account. A further sum of Rs. 1 lakh has also been provided for expenditure on "Industries."
	Total ...	...	1,36,000	1,36,000	...	1,36,000	1,36,000	
	Grand Total ..	5,84,130	5,55,611	11,39,741	3,19,133	5,25,371	8,44,504	

B. S Press—1-4-1916—3633J—350—A. H. L.

Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri.

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

"My Lord, I have only to invite the attention of the House to the memorandum, dated the 11th March, which has been placed in the hands of Hon'ble Members. The brief purport of this memorandum is that during the last few months receipts have come in somewhat better than we had anticipated. As a result we have been able to make an additional allotment for purposes of sanitation and an additional allotment for purposes of police. The additional sanitary allotment is 1 lakh of rupees and the additional police allotment is 1½ lakh. The other items in the memorandum are self-explanatory."

RESOLUTIONS ON THE REVISED FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Appendix to the List of Business—Motion No. 1.—The Hon'ble Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri moved the following resolution :—

Expenditure—Head 43—Minor Works and Navigation.

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that—

(*a*) a sum of Rs. 20,000, or such smaller sum as may be deemed sufficient, be set apart to meet the cost of selecting the site of a second reservoir for the Damodar river and for the preliminary surveys, etc., in connection therewith ; and

(*b*) the said sum be taken out of the grant of Rs. 1,00,000 provided in the Financial Statement for constructing an embankment with sluices along the south side of the Madaripur Bhil Channel, or from the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 in the hands of His Excellency the Governor for petty grants.

He said :—

"MY Lord, I fully discussed the subject of the misery and loss annually caused by the floods of the Damodar river in about 800 villages in the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly and Howrah, when I had the honour of moving a resolution on the subject on the 3rd March, 1914, and I do not wish to trouble the Council again with them. The sympathetic reply which the Hon'ble Mr. Finnimore gave on that occasion led the people to believe that the Government were considering the subject with an earnest desire to help them as far as possible. When in November, 1914, your Excellency, in your reply to the address of the Hooghly District Board, announced the scheme recommended by Mr. Addams-Williams, the long-suffering people came to entertain very high hopes that their miseries would soon be over Unfortunately for them and for the world, this terrible war which is now raging in three continents broke out, and the people had perforce to come to the conclusion that they would have to wait till the restoration of peace and the return of normal financial conditions, for the scheme to be fully given effect to. But the people fully believed and hoped that the preliminary works, such as, selection of sites of reservoirs, etc., etc., recommended in the scheme, would in the meantime be completed ; and this hope and belief were strengthened when a provision of Rs. 35,000 was made for this purpose in the Budget of 1915-16, for the purpose of these preliminary works.

My Lord, in consequence of that provision the site of one reservoir has been selected and the preliminary surveys in connection therewith have been made. If no provision be made in the Budget of 1916-17 for the selection of the site of the other reservoir, people will necessarily come to the conclusion that the scheme, which your Excellency's speech at Chinsurah and the provision in the Budget of 1915-16 of Rs. 35,000 for the preliminary works in connection with this scheme, proved to have been adopted by Government, has now for some reason or other been abandoned, and they will again fall into the slough of despair. Consequently, my Lord, it is necessary that some provision should be made in the Budget under discussion for continuing and completing the preliminary works recommended in the scheme.

Mr. Beatson Bell; Rai R.C. Pal Bahadur.

Now the question is about ways and means. My Lord, it is not likely that the whole sum of Rs. 1,00,000 provided in the Budget for the construction of the Embankment on the south side of the Madaripur Bhil Channel will be spent in the course of the next financial year, and the work will not suffer if a small sum be taken from the sum of Rs. 1,00,000 and be used for the selection of the site of the remaining reservoir in connection with Mr. Addams-Williams's scheme; and the sum so taken be again provided in the Budget of 1917-18. In the course of the year, there may be savings on other heads, and, if necessary, the whole sum of Rs. 1,00,000 for the Madaripur Bhil embankment be made good from those savings by the end of the year. If, however, it be found impossible to take any sum from the Madaripur Bhil Embankment Scheme, the small sum necessary for the purpose of this resolution may safely be taken from the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 in his Excellency's hands for petty grants.

My Lord, I do not wish to detain the Council by any further observations, but I most earnestly hope that your Excellency's Government will see their way to accept this most modest resolution, which will have the effect of preventing a large number of people from falling into despair."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

"My Lord, I think we can deal with this resolution very briefly. The survey for a second reservoir in which the Hon'ble Mover and many others are interested will not cost Rs. 20,000, but at the utmost Rs. 5,000. We are prepared to make a provision for this work and to take it up in due course next cold weather, provided that the staff is available. It is impossible to take the money from your Excellency's grant for petty improvements. Your Excellency's grant is a provincial head and irrigation is a divided head, that is to say, half the cost of irrigation is met by the Government of India and half by the Provincial Government. It is not open to us to make transfers between provincial and divided heads, but we have ascertained that we can with safety make a small reduction in the grant for the Madaripur Bhil Canal. I am, therefore, prepared to accept the resolution of my hon'ble friend in a slightly modified form. The resolution may be modified so as to read :—

> That a sum of Rs. 5,000 be set apart to meet the cost of selecting the site of a second reservoir for the Damodar river and for the preliminary surveys, etc., in connection therewith; and
>
> that the said sum be taken out of the grant of Rs. 1,00,000 provided in the Financial Statement for constructing an embankment with sluices along the south side of the Madaripur Bhil Channel."

The resolution was then put in the above form and agreed to.

Appendix to the List of Business—Motion No. 2.—The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur moved the following resolution :—

Expenditure—Head 32—Miscellaneous.

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that—

(*a*) a sum of Rupees one lakh be specially allotted for carrying out anti-malarial operations in certain selected areas, preferably in the Presidency Division; and

(*b*) the expenditure be met from the grant of Rs. 5,30,000 under the head 32—Miscellaneous and Unforeseen Charges.

He said :—

"My Lord, it is not necessary for me to make any lengthy speech to commend this resolution to the sympathetic consideration of your Excellency's Government and of the Hon'ble Members of this Council. This question has been discussed elsewhere, and I believe it meets with the

sympathy of Government, and I shall not be surprised if it meets with the acceptance of the Hon'ble the Provincial Chancellor of the Exchequer. My Lord, the recent discussion in the Viceregal Council has fully demonstrated the anxiety of the Government of India that although much has been done in the direction of ascertaining the principal measures which should be taken to prevent the spread of malaria, and also to eradicate it, still much remains to be done, and that the Government of India, as far as the proceedings of the Imperial Council show, are anxious that the Provincial Government should continue these measures vigorously. My Lord, the difficulties at the present time are fully appreciated by the people at large, but, my Lord, although this is a war budget, I am sure that the cost to meet the measures necessary for the prevention of malaria will be admitted to be as paramount as any expenditure which might be entered in the budget. My Lord, in Bengal, the mortality from malaria, it is needless to say, has been so high that it has raised quite an apprehension in the country that the decrease in birth-rate, and the increase in death-rate, if it goes on in this way, will, in a few years, depopulate the country. Since the year 1912, the mortality from fever in Bengal has been steadily rising. In 1912 it was 927,000, and in 1913, 965,000 and in 1914, 1,061,000 and within the last five years there has been a steady increase year by year. It will thus be seen that although Government have done their best to take certain measures which can at once be taken in hand, such as the distribution of quinine, the distribution of pure drugs by the agency of travelling dispensaries and such other measures, they have not been able to cope with the spread of malaria, and therefore it is necessary that the Government should take further steps to see what other measures are required to cope with the evil. The recent lectures of Dr. Bentley, which have been listened to with great attention throughout the city of Calcutta have opened the eyes of the public to the necessity of reclaiming some of the silted up rivers. I am sure the Malaria Committee, which has been appointed by Government, will take the suggestion into their consideration. As a layman it is not for me to suggest any measures, but all that we want is this, that sufficient funds be placed at the disposal of the Committee to prosecute those measures which are eminently necessary for the prevention and reduction of malaria in Bengal. My Lord, I am not one of those who say that Government have not been doing anything in this direction. I think that what has been done by affording facilities for the sale and distribution of quinine has to a certain extent met the evil in certain parts of Bengal, but if the condition of the Presidency Division is inquired into, it will be found that, in many parts of the Division, the water-logged condition is a fruitful cause of malaria, and, I believe, my Lord, that if Dr. Bentley's suggestion is taken into consideration by the Malaria Committee, the Presidency Division will no doubt to a great extent be benefited. Within the Presidency Division lies Calcutta, the provincial capital of Bengal, and owing to malaria, a large number of people have fled to Calcutta, and so the the city is necessarily congested. If the Presidency Division is improved, if malaria is driven from some of the worst places contiguous to Calcutta, I am sure the existing congested condition of Calcutta will diminish, and people will readily leave Calcutta and go to contiguous places to their homes, from where they can come to their places of business in Calcutta. I do not wish, my Lord, to take up the time of the Council with further observations. As this question has already been discussed threadbare I believe that no further observations are necessary on my part to evoke the sympathy of the Hon'ble Member in charge."

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur said :—

"My Lord, I beg to support the resolution moved by my hon'ble friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur. The question of the improvement of sanitation has already been discussed and has engaged the attention of Government, so it is needless for me to comment on the matter at any great length. The only question which is to be decided is whether this sum of one

lakh can be provided for this purpose during the present year. We have already got sufficient funds—non-recurring grants—which the Government of India have been pleased to give for the purpose, but the sum cannot be spent owing to the war, because the Government of Bengal must limit their expenditure to their income. But my appeal to your Excellency's Government is this, that if it be possible, *i.e.*, if there be no other unforeseen charges to be met from this sum of Rs. 5,30,000, one lakh of rupees be added for the purpose of sanitation."

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SIRCAR said :—

"My Lord, I think it my duty to support the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur. I can understand there are various measures that cannot be taken up for want of funds; but it is extremely deplorable that in this particular matter nothing is being done in Bengal, not for want of funds but for want of proper advice.

Experts do always differ, and will go on differing for all time to come; but in the meantime the poor villagers are dying by the thousands. The Drainage Committee who had the advantage of the co-operation of Captains Stewart and Proctor attributed the excessive prevalence of malaria in some areas in Bengal to the following conditions :—(*a*) Insanitary state of villages, (*b*) Waterlogged state of the country. As regards the part played by jungle, their conclusion as formed from later observations was that spleen rate varied from 88·8, 48·1 to 26·2 accordingly as the jungle was thick, moderate, or little, respectively. The Drainage Committee made these observations in Bengal and in the year 1907 'Sir Ronald Ross says in connection with the Public Prevention of malaria 'Malaria can be always greatly reduced, or may soon be extirpated in any locality. Large marshes in populous places must be drained, deepened or filled up.'

Anti-malarial measures have been adopted in different parts of the world on the above ideas with very great success.

To sum up, these measures amount to two, *viz.*, (1) jungle clearing; (2) making the land near habitations, water-tidy."

But we are now told by a great authority that to adopt these measures would be quack sanitation in Bengal; that jungle clearing would be injurious and might be favourable to the spread of malaria as in such a case the homeless anophilines would seek shelter in human homes; that water-logging was not favourable to the spread of malaria, and that drainage might be injurious; that the comparative freedom of municipal areas from malaria was due not so much to the absence of water-logging and other improvements, as to the crowding of people in a limited area, as thereby in that area, the proportion between human beings and anophilines became large; that the people of India or most of them have naturally to pass through a stage of malarial infection in the course of their racial life; and that against all the anti-malarial measures that have been adopted and found successful elsewhere there was only one measure suitable here as a remedy for malaria, and that is flooding the country with silt from flood water. I am not against "bonnificazione" where it is applicable and I would certainly adopt this measure in certain areas. But certainly it is absurd that jungle clearing, drainage and securing water-tidiness in proper areas should be cried down as quackery, and as useless and even injurious measures when adopted for preventing malaria in Bengal.

The Drainage Committee in their report said :—'The whole question of a remedy is bound up with the large issue of the practicability, in the present state of public opinion, of constituting any local authority with powers of supervision over the sanitation of a small area and with funds from which minor works can be carried out.'

In their resolution of May 23rd, 1914, the Government of India indicate that 'besides encouraging the use of quinine by the populations and minor anti-malarial methods, they advise that, notwithstanding the initial expense, those anti-malarial methods should be chosen which will act automatically, be independent of outside help and permanent in their effects.'

Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.

Presumably, under this comprehensive definition the wide employment of major and minor sanitary engineering works is contemplated.

But unfortunately in Bengal neither the idea of the Drainage Committee nor that of the Government of India could be given effect to.

Here is a case in point. The Panihati Municipality approached the authorities with a proposal to carry out a drainage scheme for making a particular water-logged portion of the municipal area, where the spleen rate was 70 per cent., water-tidy under the Sanitary Drainage Act. The estimates for work amounted to Rs. 69,000, and the municipality was prepared to pay their portion of the expenditure. But they were told that according to the authority of the Sanitary Commissioner water-logging was not injurious and drainage might aggravate malaria in the area concerned.

No wonder that amongst the echoes of success of anti-malarial campaigns in distant lands like the United States, Panama, Jamaica, Brazil, Spain, Italy, German possessions, French possessions, Khartoum, South Africa, Durban, Malay States and Japan, we have to remain satisfied with supplying quinine gratis to some sufferers, and selling it to others; and with accepting the woeful situation.

I may be permitted to quote an extract from an article by Dr. C. A. Bentley in the *Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* which says that 'epidemics' whether of malaria, plague, cholera, and other infectious diseases to which such races as those occurring in India, China and Russia are prone, appear no longer mere isolated, inexplicable catastrophies, but as perfectly natural phenomena fundamentally related to each other, though very different in their manifestations.' This is the mental attitude of our Chief Sanitary officer.

Against this I would quote the words of Dr. Andrew Balfour, another officer in charge of anti-malarial campaigns, though in Khartoum he says that 'The lesson which has been learnt is that in this anti-malarial warfare the motto must be "defiance" and not "defence." It is necessary to go out to attack and not to wait to be attacked. The further the skirmishing line can be extended the safer will be the area which is to be protected. The more mobile your force the better will you be served, and every facility should be afforded to the sanitary service for making river surveys and for inspectors to get quickly from place to place. It is a straightforward fight, but it has to be waged carefully, persistently and thoroughly if it is to be successful; and one must not be surprised if now and again defences are pierced. This will very often happen, but rarely if the staff are keen in their work and the sinews of war are adequately supplied.'

I feel, my Lord, that the officers in charge of the anti-malarial campaign in Bengal are not very keen on this matter; and that is one of the reasons of our suffering.

With these few words I beg to support the resolution moved by my hon'ble friend."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, I think the discussion on this resolution has somewhat wandered from the point. We are not here concerned with the conduct of our expert advisers. The resolution asks for a lakh of rupees for carrying out experiments preferably in the Presidency Division, and suggests that the money should be taken from the 'Miscellaneous and Unforeseen charges.' So far as it is a question of spending more money on experiments, the matter has been much facilitated by the announcement which my hon'ble colleague Mr. Beatson Bell has made, that an additional lakh of rupees has been given to Sanitation, and I am prepared to say that if any definite proposals for carrying out experiments come up to us, we shall be quite willing to provide the funds necessary for the purpose. At the same time, it is difficult for us to accept the resolution, and that is for two reasons. In the first place, we have not as yet any definite proposals for carrying out any experiments before us, and in a matter like this, whatever may be the merits or the demerits of our officers, we are bound to rely on them. Although there are no proposals before us

yet, yet I know that Dr. Bentley has been considering the matter and he told me that he would place some of his proposals before the Malaria Committee, of which my hon'ble friend Dr. Nilratan Sircar is a distinguished member. If the Malaria Committee advise Government as regards the advisability of making any experiments, I can assure the Hon'ble Mover of the resolution that we shall be able to find the money; but, at the same time, we do not like to ear-mark money for experiments, not knowing how much any experiment is likely to cost, and what other very urgent demands we may have to meet. As regards the source from which my hon'ble friend would like to obtain this money, it is not possible to curtail the items that go to make up the amount of Rs. 5,30,000. However, I do not think my hon'ble friend lays much stress on that point. I can tell him that if we have before us any schemes that we can approve, we will be quite glad to find the money, but we do not like to bind ourselves by ear-marking any money for this purpose. We cannot also agree that preference should be given in the matter of these experiments to the Presidency Division, as there are other districts and divisions which are equally malarious. It is for my hon'ble friend to consider whether he should insist on the resolution. If a suitable scheme is recommended, we are prepared, if necessary, to give a lakh of rupees for financing it."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, I have only a few words to say in reply. In the first place I would like to state that I do not wish to lay particular stress upon any particular item in the Budget. Of course, we non-officials are all laymen so far as the Budget figures are concerned. We do not understand all the items because we do not know what are the items of expenditure each budget head provides, and therefore there is some excuse if there is confusion on our part. Just before coming to this Council, I found that instead of Rs. 1,50,000, Rs. 2,50,000 has now been given to 'Sanitation.' I think, my Lord, that if I had known it, I would have altered my motion so that I should have moved that one lakh might be provided from this item, but as far as I can follow the Hon'ble Member, he is quite prepared, if necessary, to set aside one lakh during the course of the year for the prevention of malaria. With regard to that, I have only one word to say. I am not discussing the measures which are to be taken. My hon'ble friend, Dr. Sircar, is a member of the Malaria Committee, and I think he owes it to the Council and to the public to state what he, as a member of that Committee, has done to see that proper steps are taken with a view to extirpate malaria from Bengal and how far has his efforts been successful. He is a public-spirited citizen and an expert medical man, but we have heard nothing from him on this point. In the Imperial Council, Sir Edward Maclagan observed that each province had started a Malaria Committee, that is to say, in each province a body of men are appointed whose main duty it is to advise Government how to cope with malaria. These bodies have got an executive officer, who in some cases is the chief malaria officer. These officers are accessible to the public. As regards the prevalence of malaria in certain areas in Bengal, the Malaria Committee have not been able to present to the public a satisfactory report of what they have done with a view to the promotion of steps for the prevention of malaria. When my Hon'ble and distinguished friend is a member of that Committee, I think we would have been very pleased in this Council to hear some account of what practical steps the Committee have taken in that direction. My Lord, I am not very anxious to press this motion to a division; but following my experience in the past, I am inclined to submit, for Your Excellency's consideration, whether any harm will be done if this sum be entered in the budget. If it is so entered will always be before the eyes of Government and all the assurances that are given in this Council will then be much more vividly borne in mind and adequate steps will be taken and pressure will be put upon the executive officers also to see that the money allotted under that item is spent. My Lord, if no money is allotted, the discussions in this Council will, perhaps, be forgotten, and steps might not be taken at all in this direction. This is my apprehension.

Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda ; Rai R. C. Pal Bahadur.

I hope, my Lord, that my hon'ble friend, as a fellow countryman of ours, having a deep interest in the well-being of the country, and of the malaria-stricken population, will himself see that, at least during the course of the year, steps will be taken in that direction, and that money will be freely placed at the disposal of the executive officers for the purpose. I, for my own part, would then cheerfully withdraw this resolution."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, I have already given the assurance, and I have no objection to repeat it. The only thing necessary is that the Hon'ble Dr. Sircar should lash up the Malaria Committee and induce them to place definite proposals before Government at an early date."

The resolution was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

Appendix to the List of Business—Motion No. 3.—The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur moved the following resolution :—

Expenditure—Head 22—Education.

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that—

(*a*) a recurring grant of Rs. 1,200 a year be made over to the Calcutta University for providing the Namasudra and other students of the backward classes with hostel accommodation in the town of Calcutta ; and

(*b*) the expenditure be met from the grant of Rs. 1,91,000 under the head 22—Education—Miscellaneous.

He said :—

"My Lord, at the outset I again plead my ignorance of the various items in the Budget. As regards this item, I am quite prepared to accept the suggestion of the Hon'ble Member as to what should be the proper item from which the money could be drawn. I find, my Lord, there is a lump grant on page 55 of the Budget, amounting to Rs. 14,80,000 from which this money, which is a very small sum, is perhaps available. I would remind your Excellency that in the year 1914, this question was raised by the Hon'ble Dr. Nilratan Sircar and discussed in Council.

This is what Mr. Küchler, the then Director of Public Instruction, said :—'A proposal was under the consideration of the Department for Namasudra hostels at Barisal, Faridpur and Dacca. There is a Mahisya hostel at Dacca which receives a monthly grant not exceeding Rs. 30. It will be seen from this that Government are already taking steps to provide proper hostel accommodation for boys belonging to the depressed classes. This policy will, of course, be extended with the help of the funds at our disposal.'

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji said :—'May I put a question to the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction in connection with the hostel accommodation for Namasudra boys? The Hon'ble Member has referred to the hostels being established at Chittagong and some other places in Eastern Bengal. But there is a considerable number of Namasudra boys in Calcutta, and speaking from my own personal experience, we have had very considerable difficulty in getting hostel accommodation for Namasudra boys in Calcutta.'

To this the Hon'ble Mr. Küchler said :—

'There would be no objection to that being done provided the conditions which are to be attached to the Government of India grant permit us to extend these hostels to Calcutta.'

Then the Hon'ble Mr. Küchler also observed as follows :—'I am afraid I shall not be of much help, as my term will expire in a short time, but I am sure the adjudication will be carried out by my successor.'

It will thus be seen, my Lord, that this question met with sympathetic consideration at the hands of Government at the time when it was brought

up by the Hon'ble Dr. Nilratan Sircar. My Lord, two years have passed away since then, and although in Calcutta many hostels have been added, and many messes have been opened for Bengali boys and for Muhammadan boys, nothing has yet been done as regards these depressed classes. I am inclined to think that (I may be wrong, but still that is my impression) if an item is entered in the budget, the assurance of the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction would not be forgotten. My request is a very moderate one. In fact, my hon'ble friend, the Director of Public Instruction, told me as I was entering the Council Chamber that he was amazed at my moderation. Having regard to what has fallen from the lips of the Chancellor of the Provincial Exchequer on more than two occasions in this Council, I think my resolution will receive sympathetic consideration. My object is that some beginning should be made to provide the backward classes with hostel accommodation."

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said :—

"My Lord, I am very thankful to my friend, the mover of this resolution, for bringing forward this resolution. I feel quite sure that in this House there can be no difference of opinion as to the need for making some provision of the kind suggested by the resolution, and the urgency of that need was foreshadowed clearly more than two years ago, as will be found from the extract my friend has just read out. During the interval that has passed, no material advance has been made so far as Calcutta is concerned, but I bear willing testimony to the excellent results that have been achieved in centres like Dacca where I visited the Namasudra hostels, and was struck with the great capabilities of the situation. Recently, I received a very large deputation of the people concerned—some 30 of them—who came to ask me if we could do anything in the matter. Of course, with the limited grant in our hands, it has not been possible to do what we wanted. The difficulty of the situation is that the people concerned are mostly poor and can pay little towards the scheme. The whole question of Hostel grants is being considered by your Excellency's Government and the University. We are thankful for the grants that we have been receiving, but it is by no means sufficient to meet the demands that are made to us from time to time. As I indicated in my Convocation address on Saturday last, the handsome grant of the Government of India to which your Excellency's Government have been good enough to add 3½ lakhs, will enable us to have hostels accommodating 200 students each, for the Ripon, St. Xavier's, the Metropolitan Institution, the City College and the Bangabasi College, a central Muhammadan hostel; but by close supervision and careful conduct of the building operations, I think we may have money left for hostels for what I am unwilling to call 'depressed classes,' any other name would do just as well. I think we shall be able to have a hostel for them as well as for the Buddhist students, but in the meantime there is no doubt that some temporary arrangement should be made to give immediate relief to those who find it difficult to obtain accommodation without resorting to means that can never be commendable. So long as a man does not aspire to be a 'Ghosh', 'Bose' or 'Mitter', he could take any Kayasta surname and get admission to any mess. We do not want that state of things to continue. And I am sure your Excellency's Government will view sympathetically the proposal that has been put forward. At the present moment, we have not got any mature scheme to put forward for the Namasudra class and other special classes. If the matter is left to stand, I am almost sure there will be no difficulty to us to have a hostel, accomodating 30 or 40 Namasudra boys. If the Government see their way of making a grant the terms of which can be discussed between the University and your Excellency's Government."

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL said :—

"My Lord, this resolution is but another example of the generosity and good nature of our quixotic colleague, but I am afraid that, as it is put, it is scarcely practical politics. The Local Government are asked to make a grant of Rs. 1,200 a year to enable the University to provide hostel accommodation for Namasudra and other students of the backward classes. Why Rs. 1,200 is asked for, and not Rs. 1,400 or Rs. 12,000 is not clear. I suppose it is

Rai R. C. Pal Bahadur.

suggested that this moderate amount should be entered in the Budget as a sort of perpetual prick to the Government's conscience. However, what I think the Hon'ble mover had in mind was the fact to which the Vice-Chancellor has alluded, viz., that the Calcutta University and not the Local Government is responsible for the residence of students. Now, surely, if the Hon'ble Mover had wanted to suggest that the University should provide temporary accommodation for a certain type of students, his first step should have been to approach the University and not the Local Government. On the necessity or otherwise of this hostel accommodation I am not prepared to express an opinion. The University are now spending the 10 lakhs of rupees recently assigned to them by the Government of India on the construction of hostels for private colleges, and this scheme will include a non-collegiate hostel for Muhammadans, but not a hostel for Namasudra students. I never heard it even suggested—until the Vice-Chancellor suggested it just now—that a Namasudra hostel might have been provided out of these Rs. 10 lakhs. Possibly this was not suggested before, because funds were not sufficient, or rather because there were more urgent needs, and possibly it may have occurred to some of the University authorities that the number of Namasudra students who are perpetually in residence, were scarcely sufficient to justify the construction by the University of a hostel out of public funds. Be that as it may, I take it that what the Hon'ble Mover has in mind is that the University should rent a special mess for Namasudras. If this is what he means, I think the Hon'ble Mover should reflect that the University is and perhaps has been for some years, running a mess scheme with the assistance of a Government grant. If he contemplates that the University should make provision for accommodation of this kind in connection with this mess scheme, there is nothing to prevent them from working out a proposal, and if necessary, seeking further Government assistance. The whole question of the financing of this mess scheme is under consideration.

In conclusion, I would venture to suggest that the Bengal Legislative Council is scarcely the place to discuss the requirements of a particular class of students. The Calcutta University is not under the Local Government, and it has occurred to me that the generous impulses of my chivalrous colleague will perhaps bear more fruit if, in a proposal of this kind, he would, in the first instance at any rate, address his aspirations to the Vice-Chancellor. I understand that the Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor is already considering the matter, and I do not myself quite see what purpose would be served by the present resolution.

As regards the head from which this expenditure should be met, the head 'Miscellaneous' is not the proper one for a charge of this kind, but I gather that this is a point on which the Hon'ble Member does not insist."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, in the first place, replying to the Director of Public Instruction as to why I asked for Rs. 1,200 and not Rs. 14,000, I would at once say that the non-official members, at least most of them, are in this position. They have not got certain cut and dried estimates prepared by the executive officers placed at their disposal as the official members have. Therefore, whatever figures we put down in a resolution are generally in order to give a clue to the items that we think should, according to the public needs, be entered in the budget, and therefore I am afraid the observations of my Hon'ble friend are not in order. Unfortunately for us, we are not in the happy position in which he as an official is, with an army of expert estimators and advisers behind him. The Hon'ble Member has stated that this is not the place to bring forward a resolution regarding the needs of a particular class of students. Unfortunately, my Lord, everyone, whether official or non-official, including the last Director of Public Instruction, does not always hold the same view as my Hon'ble friend, the present Director. His predecessor, Mr. Küchler, did not deprecate discussion in this Council of the claims of a particular class of the community, who, though belonging to the depressed classes, have nevertheless equal claims on the benevolent Government. There is not the slightest trace in the speeches and discussions on these occasions to show

that discussion in this Council of the claims of a particular class of the community is to be deprecated. I am in a state of bewilderment from whom to take my wisdom, whether from the last Director or from his successor, the present Director.

I may state briefly that my object in asking for Rs. 1,200 is this: that a beginning may be made so that a temporary house might be rented for the accommodation of Namasudra boys. The Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor has spoken to me after he resumed his seat, and I find that he is in entire agreement with me. Therefore, I think that as far as this resolution is concerned, it meets with the full approbation of the Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor. I have nothing more to say, my Lord, but if the Director of Public Instruction from his high place in this Council, deprecates discussion of this matter and advises the rejection of my resolution, I know very well what its fate will be, but nevertheless I respectfully and humbly place this motion before the Council.

The motion was then put and lost.

Appendix to the List of Business—Motion No. 4.—The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq moved the following resolution:—

Expenditure—Head 26.1—Agriculture—Head 26 B—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—Head 32, Miscellaneous.

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that—

(*a*) ample provision be made in the Budget to give effect to the proposal for raising the minimum grade pay of Munsifs to Rs. 250 a month so as to bring it into line with the minimum grade pay of Deputy Collectors; and

(*b*) the charge be met from the lump grant of Rupees one lakh for the development of industries, the grant of Rs. 30,000 for potatoes, bonemeal and other experiments and also the general reserve of Rs. 2,00,000.

He said:—

"My Lord, it is not without some reluctance that I yield to a sense of duty in moving this resolution. I feel that it is very difficult at the present moment, owing to the necessity for the utmost economy in all our items of expenditure, to touch any of the various allotments that have been made for meeting the exigencies of the administration. If, therefore, I have ventured to bring forward a proposal, entailing an expenditure not provided for in the present budget, it is because I feel that the scheme is one which ought to be undertaken without any further delay, at least in the interests of the public service itself. It is useless for me to take up the time of the Council by a discussion of the grave injustice that is being done to a very deserving class of public servants by what I consider an almost invidious distinction in the matter of pay between them and their sister service, the Provincial Executive Service. As far as I remember, my Lord, allotments had been made in the previous budgets, but no steps have yet been taken in this direction. As I have said, I consider that this reform is one which is long overdue, and I hope that Government will not lose any time in taking up this scheme of reform. The only question is as to the head of expenditure that may be drawn upon in order to find funds for the recommendation embodied in my resolution. I have indicated three, but I do not wish to say anything at present on these allotments, because I wish to know what Government really think of this resolution.

With these few words I commend my motion to the acceptance of your Excellency's Council."

The Hon'ble BABU RAMTARAN BANERJI said:—

"My Lord, I am sorry to find from the Financial Statement that nothing has been done to ameliorate the condition of the Munsifs by raising the initial pay from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250. The demands upon our finances may not permit us to give effect to this suggestion in the budget before us, but it is a matter which I hope will engage the attention of the Government as soon as the financial position improves. This suggestion, I may point out, is bare justice

to them as it means nothing more than restoring to the service the pay which they enjoyed many years ago before 1878-79. In those days Munsifs began their service early, promotions were rapid, 10 or 12 years' service was sufficient in most cases to qualify them for a Subjudgeship with a pay of Rs. 600 per mensem. Moreover, living in those days was much cheaper. But now the times are hard, they begin service late generally at the age of 29 to 30, promotions are slow and retarded and one cannot expect to be a Subordinate Judge before he has put in 20 or 22 years' service. In course of five years, he rushes through the several grades and becomes superannuated and retires. In the circumstances, it would be something if his initial pay is increased to Rs. 250. I need hardly say that the pay which the Munsifs draw in the early years of their service is not sufficient for them to maintain the dignity of their position as Civil Judges, so necessary for the prestige of the administration and to inspire respect and regard in the minds of the suitors. Their poor pay hardly leaves them a margin which they can utilise in making the most useful of all investments, viz., the purchase of books, to keep up their general efficiency. In this connection, I am constrained to observe, while I do not mean to detract from the ability of some of the members of the service, that those who as Munsifs show promises of brilliant futures have failed to answer those expectations when appointed Subordinate Judges. This is mainly due to excessive overwork, and add to this the constant trepidation in which they sometimes live owing to unsympathetic District Judges, generally young officers who try to extort the maximum quantity of work even at the sacrifice of quality, denying them even a word of encouragement. They seldom have time to keep up their study of law.

I would, therefore, support the resolution for the improvement of the initial pay of these hard-working class of Judicial officers and if practicable some provision may be made for it."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, I need not discuss the merits of this resolution for there is not much difference of opinion between Government and the object of it. As a matter of fact, two years ago, we budgeted a sum of Rs. 21,000, for introducing this very reform, but after careful consideration, we had to postpone giving effect to it, because we had made certain recommendations in this connection to the Public Services Commission, and decided to wait and see what the recommendations of the Commission are. The matter has been further complicated by the present financial situation. I may assure my Hon'ble friend that when we know what the Commission have to say on the subject, and we have the money, we will be glad to give effect to the reforms which this resolution seeks to introduce. I am sorry therefore to have to oppose the resolution.

There is also another reason, and that is as to the source from which this money is to come. The resolution asks that this money should be found from the money budgeted for for the development of industries, for potatoes and for certain other purposes. I may tell my Hon'ble friend that this year's budget has been so framed that what has been provided for for a particular object is the least that could be given to it, and I do not think the Council would sympathise with the desire to take away money, for the development of industries. For these reasons, I am sorry, I have to oppose the resolution."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said :—

"My Lord, I do not know if I have done any service to the Munsifs by moving this resolution, for after the reply that has been given by the Hon'ble Member, this body of public servants who have so long been living in hope, will now be driven almost to despair, because the prospect of this reform being taken up will now, according to the reply, be indefinitely postponed. I do not think, however, if Government agree that this reform should be undertaken, there need be any difficulty even in our present

Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq.

financial condition. It may be that the two items I have suggested should not be touched upon, but Government can find the ways and means, and can find money enough not exceeding Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 40,000 in order to carry out this very necessary reform.

As regards the development of industries and the potatoes cultivation, I do not wish to say anything now, because I shall say what I have to say regarding this in connection with the other resolution which stands in my name.

A division was then taken, with the following result :—

Ayes—16.	*Noes—23.*
The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray.	The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Lyon, C.S.
,, ,, Dr. Nilratan Sarkar	,, ,, Nawab Syed Sham-ul-Huda.
,, ,, Mr. Golam Hossein Cassim Ariff	,, ,, Mr. N. D. Beatson Bell, C.S.I., C.I.E.
,, ,, Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri.	,, ,, ,, J. H. Kerr, C.I.E.
,, ,, ,, A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.	,, ,, ,, K. C. De, C.I.E.
,, ,, Chaudhuri Muhammad Ismail Khan.	,, ,, ,, J. Donald.
,, ,, Rai Prasanna Kumar Ray Bahadur.	,, ,, ,, L. Birley, C.I.E.
,, ,, Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari, C.I.E.	,, ,, ,, H. H. Green.
,, ,, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur	,, ,, ,, E. B. H. Panton.
,, ,, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharaf Hosain.	,, ,, ,, C. H. Bompas.
,, ,, Mr. Byomkes Chakravarti.	,, ,, ,, F. J. Monahan.
,, ,, Babu Rantaran Banarji	,, ,, ,, B. C. Mitra.
,, ,, Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, Amir-ul-Omrah, K.C.S.I., K.C.A.O.	,, ,, ,, W. W. Hornell.
	,, ,, Surgeon-General Edwards, C.B., C.M.G.
	,, ,, Rai Priya Nath Mukharji Bahadur.
,, ,, Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.	,, ,, Mr. C. F. Payne.
	,, ,, ,, H. J. Hilary.
,, ,, Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur	,, ,, ,, J. Lang.
,, ,, Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.	,, ,, ,, W. T. Grice.
	,, ,, ,, E. A. Martin.
	,, ,, ,, R. Glen.
	,, ,, ,, A. Birkmyre.
	,, ,, ,, E. H. Bray.

The following members were absent :—

The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Hossain Haider Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.
,, ,, Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.
,, ,, Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur.
,, ,, Sir Satyendra Prasanna Sinha, Kt.
,, ,, Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Ray.
,, ,, Mr. A. W. C. Chaplin.

The following members abstained from voting :—

The Hon'ble Raja Hrishikesh Laha, C.I.E.
,, ,, Babu Mahendra Nath Ray, C.I.E.
,, ,, Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur.
,, ,, Babu Upendra Lal Ray.
,, ,, Raja Shoshi Kanta Acharyya Chaudhuri Bahadur.
,, ,, Raja Mahendra Ranjan Rai Chaudhuri.

The ayes being 16 and the noes 23, the motion was lost.

Appendix to the list of Business—Motion No. 6.—The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq moved the following resolution :—

Expenditure—Head 26A—Agriculture—Head 26B—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—Head 32—Miscellaneous.

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that—

(*a*) provision be made in the Budget for increment to the pay of clerks and mohurrirs attached to Registration offices in Bengal, and

(*b*) the charge be met from the lump grant of Rupees one lakh for the development of industries, the grant of Rs. 30,000 for potatoes, bonemeal and other experiments and also the general reserve of Rupees 2,00,000.

Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq; Mr. Beatson Bell.

He said :—

"My Lord, I do not think I need detain this Council with any long speech in support of this resolution. The principle embodied in this resolution has long been recognised by Government, and it is a matter of common knowledge that these clerks and mohurrirs in Registration offices are very much underpaid, having regard to the responsible work which they have to perform in the discharge of their duties. Even so recently as about a week ago, the Hon'ble Mr. Birley in answer to an interpellation of mine, made the following statement in Council :—

'The question of the revision of the pay of the ministerial establishment of the Registration Department has engaged the attention of Government for a long time. In the year 1911 schemes of registration reform were prepared both in this Province and the late province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, but no final decision could be reached before the territorial redistribution. Since then a revised scheme for the Presidency of Bengal has been prepared and submitted to the Government of India. It would not be possible in any case to give effect to this scheme until the return of normal conditions after the war.'

It will thus be seen that the principle has been accepted by Government and efforts have been made from time to time to carry out this very reform. In order to enable this Council to judge of the necessity of this reform, I do not think I need say anything, but I will only say a few words as to the amount which will approximately be necessary in order to carry out this reform. There are about 400 registration offices, or put it exactly 401, and the number of clerks and mohurrirs attached to these offices is a little over 1,100. An increment of say Rs. 5 a month works out to Rs. 67,440 a year, and the question is whether this expenditure should be incurred, or whether this scheme should be put off till after the war is over. In order to realise the present pay and prospects of these persons, I need only remind the Council, that although in some places the head-clerk gets about Rs. 40, in rural offices they get only Rs. 25 a month and the poor mohurrir gets the magnificent sum of Rs. 15 a month. It is no wonder that with all the responsible work he has got to do, and the small pittance he draws, he has to replenish his pockets by preying on the public. An increment of Rs. 5 a month would not be very much, but it means a good deal to the mohurrirs. My Lord, whenever a scheme like this is suggested, we are met with the observation that the financial conditions are very much strained, and we must wait till the war is over. I have only one observation to make to this. Does everything else stand over till the war is over? Those of us, for instance who can afford to lose a little portion of our income, do we agree to see that such privilege is withheld from us till the war is over? I will be more explicit, and I will put it to some of the high officials who draw big salaries. Will they agree that a piece from their salary be taken off?"

The Hon'ble Mr. BEATSON BELL : "Yes."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ : "Supposing I said that promotions be stopped till the war is over. Will that meet with a ready response?"

The Hon'ble Mr. BEATSON BELL : "Yes."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ : "At any rate, My Lord everyone in this house, official and non-official, when the time comes to find funds for the conduct of the war will gladly contribute their money, but so far as the present budget is concerned there are no indications that any of our privileges, for instance anything relating to pay or promotions, should be withheld till after the war is over. Why should these poor mohurrirs on Rs. 15 a month be allowed to hope on and hope on, simply because financial conditions are strained? After all, if we cannot take up the big measure of reform, if we do not sanction the increment to the clerks and the mohurrirs.

let us at least make a beginning, and I am willing to modify the resolution if a beginning is made which would not cost more than Rs. 20,000 and that sum can be met under any of the allotted heads of expenditure. My Lord, I have got to say only a few words as regards the development of industries. One lakh has been budgetted for under this head. The development of industries is a most fascinating subject. At any rate, it has supplied many a splendid peroration on many public platforms, and I am afraid if Government really take to developing our industries, they will take away a very fruitful source of our eloquence from our public platforms. So far as the development of industries is concerned, I do not think Government can do very much by making any allotment in the budget. The appointment of a Director of Industries has been suggested, but what advice is he going to give? Probably this one lakh of rupees will be spent on the salary of the Director of Industries and his establishment."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL: "This lakh is not for the Director's salary at all; it is for other objects."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ: "I think, reading the allotments that are set forth in the budget, there is a provision for the appointment of a Director of Industries, and a scheme for the development of the industries of the province. The recurring estimate is Rs. 1,30,000. The Government of India have applied for the sanction of the Secretary of State for the appointment of a Director of Industries on a salary of Rs. 1,500 rising to Rs. 2,000 with an establishment and other charges. The sanction of the Secretary of State has not yet been received. In pages 16, 17 a provision of Rs. 30,000 has been made on this account, and a further sum of one lakh of rupees is provided for expenditure on industries in addition to the provision made for the appointment of a Director and establishment."

The Hon'ble. MR. BEATSON BELL: "The salary of the Director and his establishment will come out of the Rs. 30,000, and the sum of Rs. 1 lakh will be in the Director's hands for the conduct of his operations."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HUQ: "That is all the more reason why we can take out a few thousands from this provision of one lakh. There has been Rs. 30,000 allotted for the improvement of the potato cultivation. The question is whether there should be at the present moment an improvement in the potatoes, or an improvement in the pay and prospects of a deserving class of public servants—there are about 500 of them. I submit, my Lord, that their pay and prospects should come first before we take any steps for the improvement of potatoes. We can always draw upon these three heads, it is but a drop in the ocean. I hope that Government will accept this resolution."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, I am sorry that I am not in a position to accept this resolution. The question about the improvement of the pay and prospects of the clerks and mohurrirs in the Registration Department has been under consideration for some years; the scheme is ready, but we are precluded by express orders of the Secretary of State from involving ourselves in any new expenditure, unless it fulfils the test of being imperative and of immediate necessity. I cannot say that this reform is of that character. On this ground, my Lord, I would oppose the resolution, but at the same time, I may state, that when the scheme is sanctioned, on the return of normal conditions, I hope effect will be given to the scheme. The total amount required would be about Rs. 1,37,000 and nothing less. I am sorry therefore, that I cannot accept this resolution, and I need hardly repeat that we cannot consent to any reduction either in the allotment for the development of industries for potatoes, or for bonemeal, nor are we inclined to dip into our general reserve of two lakhs."

Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq.—Resolution—Chaudhuri Muhammad Ismail Khan.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said :—

"My Lord, I do not wish to detain this Council by any long reply. I take it that this resolution will not be accepted, and I will not also ask for a division. I will, however, wait for a year and see how these industries and the potatoes develop. I hope that there will be funds enough next year to be allotted to this reform which I advocate at the present moment."

The resolution was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM NO. 3.

RESOLUTION.

(*Under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest.*)

The Hon'ble CHAUDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN moved the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that special Inspecting Officers be appointed for the purpose of inspecting and supervising the offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis in this Presidency.

He said :—

"My Lord, the resolution which I desire to propose for the acceptance of Your Excellency's Government is one which, I am confident, will commend itself to my Hon'ble colleagues around me.

My Lord, in the Presidency of Bengal there are, I understand, about 400 Registration offices and about 300 offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis. My hon'ble friend the Inspector-General of Registration is at the head of these offices and I use no exaggeration when I say that he has by his thoroughness done credit to himself and to the Provincial Civil Service to which he belongs. As things stand at present, he has under him four Inspectors (one of whom was appointed not very long ago) whose chief duty is the inspection of nearly 400 Registration offices throughout the Presidency, but who are also supposed to inspect the offices of as many Muhammadan Marriage Registrars as possible. I do not know if it is possible for these four Inspectors to inspect all the Registration offices even once a year. I am still more doubtful as to the amount of attention it is possible for them to pay to the offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars. As for inspections by District Sub-Registrars, I beg to point out that if that were considered sufficient Government would not have appointed Inspectors of Registration at all. Muhammadan Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors are empowered to inspect the offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars within their jurisdiction, but I am afraid that most of them either do not know that they are so empowered or do not care to spend their time in doing something that does not directly concern them. The Permanent Committee for the Supervision of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars in Bengal, to which several of the Muhammadan members of this Council belong, is more or less an appointing Committee and the only manner in which they can and perhaps do indirectly supervise these offices is by appointing really good men as Kazis. From these facts it will appear that the inspection of the offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars is conducted on not very satisfactory lines. It seems to me to be everybody's business and nobody's business at the same time.

My Lord, in the Criminal Courts of the Presidency a divorce or the denial of marriage are common pleas in charges under sections 497 and 498 of the Indian Penal Code. In the Civil Courts, questions relating to marriage and divorce often arise in suits for the restitution of conjugal rights, for divorce or inheritance. In view of these facts, the records in the offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars are of the utmost importance to the Mussalman Community. This is particularly the case in the Muhammadan

districts of Eastern Bengal where marriage cases both criminal and civil are so numerous.

My Lord, with the multiplication of the offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars the task of inspection is becoming more and more exacting and responsible, and it is time that this branch of the Registration Department should have an inspecting agency of its own. The proper inspection of these offices will keep the Kazis up to the mark, ensure the correctness of the records and increase to a very great extent the popularity of the voluntary system of marriage registration among my co-religionists.

My Lord, if the Government are pleased to accept this Resolution I would for the present suggest the appointment of at least two Inspectors of Muhammadan Marriage Registration offices with head-quarters at Calcutta and Dacca. The appointments may, however, for the present be held in abeyance, till the return of normal financial conditions after the war. I would not therefore take the time of this Council by entering into details at the present moment, as in case your Excellency's Government are agreeable to the proposal the details can be settled very easily afterwards. In proposing this resolution I am confident that your Excellency's Government will be pleased to give this question your full and sympathetic consideration."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said :—

"My Lord, I wish to say only a few words in support of this resolution. At least there can be no financial difficulty in the way of accepting this resolution. The recommendation that the principle embodied in this resolution be accepted is most opportune because when the Act comes up for amendment, the question of the appointment of Muhammadan Registrars, specially for the purpose of inspecting these offices, may also be considered. My Lord, in these circumstances, since my friend has been wise enough to say that the carrying out of the appointment be postponed till the return of normal financial conditions, the resolution may be accepted."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, I am sorry that it has been my lot to oppose resolution after resolution on the ground of the present financial stringency. But we have to face these difficulties, and many of our pet children had to be sacrificed. My hon'ble colleague, Mr. Beatson-Bell, has already told this Council, that he had to sacrifice one of his pet children, the Jessore survey and settlement operations. We had sanction for 4 Collectors and 4 Judges. We have appointed the Judges, but not the Collectors. It has been said that so far as this resolution is concerned, we might accept the principle and give effect to it when the war is over. I do not think, my Lord, it is always convenient to make promises before we know what actual conditions we may be confronted with. We have been considering the question of making better provision for the inspection of offices of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars for some time, but the consideration of this scheme, as well as of many others, must for the present be postponed. I therefore cannot give a promise not knowing when we may be in a position to give effect to it."

The resolution was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council was then adjourned to Monday the 27th March, 1916, at 11 A.M.

A. M. HUTCHISON.

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal and
Secy. to the Bengal Legislative Council (Offg.).

CALCUTTA ;
The 20th March, 1916.

B. S. Press—1-4-1916—3633J—350—L. G.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in Government House on Monday, the 27th March, 1916, at 11 A.M.

Present :

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., *Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I., *Vice-President.*

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA.

The Hon'ble MR. N. D. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble COL. W. R. EDWARDS, C.B., C.M.G.

The Hon'ble MR. F. J. MONAHAN.

The Hon'ble MR. J. LANG.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. K. C. DE, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. DONALD.

The Hon'ble MR. L. BIRLEY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble MR. C. H. BOMPAS.

The Hon'ble MR. B. C. MITRA.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNELL.

The Hon'ble MR. C. F. PAYNE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. B. H. PANTON.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. H. J. HILARY.

The Hon'ble NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., AMIR-UL-OMRAH.

The Hon'ble SIR SATYENDRA PRASANNA SINHA, KT.

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble RAJA SHOSHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHAUDHURI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble BABU RAMTARAN BANERJI.

Chaudhuri Muhammad Ismail Khan; Mr. Green; Babu S. N. Ray.

The Hon'ble RAI RAMHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. E. H. BRAY.

The Hon'ble MR. A. BIRKMYRE.

The Hon'ble MR. W. T. GRICE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. MARTIN.

The Hon'ble MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF.

The Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSSAIN.

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAI PRASANNA KUMAR RAY BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble CHAUDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN.

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 1.

STARRED QUESTIONS

By the Hon'ble CHAUDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN:—

Calcutta to Barisal Railway Scheme.

*1. Will the Government be pleased to state what recommendations they have made, or are going to make, to the Imperial Government in connection with the proposed Calcutta to Barisal Railway extension scheme?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied:—

"A copy of the project report and estimates of the proposed Khulna Barisal-Faridpur Railway has been received from the Railway Board for an expression of the views of this Government on the alignment, waterways, etc., proposed for the line. This Government are still examining the very difficult problems which are involved and have not yet found themselves in a position to express a final opinion."

By the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY:—

Extension of the scope of the Calcutta Fire Brigade.

* 2. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a recent case of fire in the Khurdah Jute Mills and the inability of the Calcutta Fire Brigade to render any help on account of a rule which restricts its operation to a radius of six miles from the Central Fire Station?

Mr. De; Raja Hrishikesh Laha; Mr. Green; Babu N. L. Ray; Mr. Kerr.

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of modifying the rules in order to bring the Mills on both sides of the river Hooghly up to Naihati on the east and Telinipara on west of that river within the scope of the Calcutta Fire Brigade?

The Hon'ble Mr. DE replied :—

"(*a*) Information was received by the Calcutta Fire Brigade on the evening of the 3rd March, 1916, that a fire had broken out at the Khurdah Jute Mill. The Fire Brigade were unable to send appliances as the fire was at a considerable distance beyond the radius of 6 miles within which they are authorised to attend, under Notification No. 1850 T.M., dated the 25th August, 1915. The Chief Officer, a station officer and twelve khalasies visited the scene of the fire during the night.

(*b*) Government have under consideration the revision of the rules framed from time to time under section 31 of the Licensed Warehouse and Fire Brigade Act, and will be prepared to sanction the extension of the radius of action of the Calcutta Fire Brigade so far as is possible without disproportionate increase in capital and recurring expenditure. They are advised that with due regard to these considerations there is little chance of the radius being extended at present to the limits suggested by the Hon'ble Member. The outlying mills must look for protection against fire to the efficiency of their own fire drill and appliances."

By the Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA :—

*3. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what progress has been made with the Bongong-Satkhira broad-gauge railway scheme to which His Excellency referred in his speech in reply to the address of the District Board of Khulna on the occasion of his last visit there and to which sanction has been accorded by the Government? Bongong-Satkhira railway

(*b*) Is it a fact that the inhabitants of the subdivision of Satkhira have long desired to be connected by rail with the Eastern Bengal Railway, Central Section?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that such connection would open up a large part of the district of Khulna?

(*d*) Are the Government experiencing any difficulties in carrying out the sanctioned scheme of the Bongong-Satkhira broad-gauge railway?

(*e*) If so, are the Government considering the advisability of accepting some other arrangement on the guarantee basis?

The Hon'ble Mr. GREEN replied :—

"(*a*) The question of the construction of a railway between Bongong and Satkhira is still under consideration by the Railway Board.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) & (*e*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply to (*a*) above."

By the Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY :—

*4. Are the Government considering the desirability of making the appointments in the Provincial Judicial Service by rotation as is done in the case of appointments to the Provincial Executive Service? Appointments in the Judicial Service

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR replied :—

"The answer is in the negative.

Under the provisions of the Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts Act, 1887 (XII of 1887), the Local Government are bound to appoint any one nominated by the High Court."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

By the Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY :—

Appointments in the Provincial Judicial Service.

1. Will the Government be pleased to state, district by district, the number of appointments in the Provincial Judicial Service held by the inhabitants of each district?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR was laid on the table :—

"A statement is laid on the table."

Statement referred to by the HON'BLE MR. KERR *in answer to Question No. 1, asked by the* HON'BLE BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 27th March, 1916.*

Name of district	Number of appointments, substantive and sub. *pro tem.*, in the Provincial Judicial Service, held on the 1st January, 1916, by the inhabitants of the district.	
Burdwan Division—		
Burdwan	17	
Birbhum	3	
Bankura	9	
Midnapore	4	
Hooghly	35	
Howrah	5	
	—	73
Presidency Division, including Calcutta—		
Calcutta	28	
24-Parganas	25	
Nadia	18	
Murshidabad	1	
Jessore	9	
Khulna	6	
	—	87
Dacca Division—		
Dacca	63	
Mymensingh	6	
Faridpur	24	
Bakarganj	9	
	—	102
Chittagong Division—		
Chittagong	7	
Tippera	10	
Noakhali	3	
	—	20
Rajshahi Division—		
Rajshahi	Nil.	
Dinajpur	Nil.	
Rangpur	Nil.	
Jalpaiguri	1	
Bogra	1	
Pabna	9	
Malda	Nil.	
Darjeeling	Nil.	
	—	11
Sylhet	5	
Bhagalpur	1	
Jorhat	1	
	—	7
Total		300

Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq; Mr. De.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Teaching of Arabic and Persian in High English schools

11. Will the Government be pleased to state the number of High English schools, either under Government management or receiving Government aid, in which there is no provision for the teaching of Arabic and Persian, and also the number of Muhammadan boys in each of such schools ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DE was laid on the table :—

"A statement giving the information required is laid on the table."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. De *in answer to Question No. 11 (unstarred), asked by the* Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq *at the Council Meeting of the 27th March, 1916.*

List of Government and aided high schools in Bengal in which there is no provision for the teaching of Arabic or Persian and the number of Muhammadan boys in each of these schools :—

Number	District.	Name of school	Government or aided	Number of Muhammadan boys	REMARKS.
	Presidency Division—				
1	24-Parganas	Taki	Government	1	
2	Ditto ...	Behala ...	Aided ...	4	
3	Ditto ...	Boral ...	Do. ...	20	
4	Ditto ...	Sandpur ...	Do. ...	8	
5	Ditto ...	Gobardanga ...	Do. ..	7	
6	Ditto ...	Baharu ...	Do. ...	16	
7	Ditto ...	Hatuganj ...	Do. ...	27	
8	Ditto ...	Diamond Harbour	Do. ...	15	Provision made for a maulvi on Rs. 30, but not yet appointed.
9	Ditto ...	Gustia ...	Do. ...	26	
10	Ditto ...	Tarupur ...	Do. ...	17	
11	Ditto ...	Halishahar ...	Do. ...	1	
12	Ditto ...	Amadaha ...	Do. ...	7	
13	Ditto ...	Arbaha ...	Do. ...	21	
14	Ditto ...	Barahanagar ...	Do. ...	6	
15	Ditto ...	Sarisa ...	Do. ...	18	
16	Ditto ...	Joynagar Institution.	Do. ...	2	
17	Ditto ...	Sreedhar Bansidhar.	Do. ...	3	
18	Calcutta ...	Brahmo Boys' ...	Do. ...	2	
19	Nadia ...	Majdia Railbazar	Do. ...	18	
20	Do. ...	Muragacha ...	Do. ...	4	
21	Do. ...	Belpukur ...	Do. ...	6	
22	Do. ...	Bhajanghat ...	Do. ...	12	

Number.	District.	Name of school	Government or aided.	Number of Muhammadan boys.	REMARKS.
	Presidency Division—concld.				
23	Nadia ...	Santipore ...	Aided ...	10	Provision exists for a maulvi, but not appointed.
24	Do. ...	Ranaghat ...	Do. ...	17	
25	Do. ...	Natuda ...	Do. ...	26	
26	Do. ...	Gossaindurgapur	Do. ...	29	
27	Do. ...	Sudhakarpur ...	Do. ...	3	
28	Murshidabad	Khagra L. M. S.	Do. ...	6	
29	Jessore ...	Kotechandpur ...	Do. ...	36	
30	Khulna ...	Qaruli Katpara ...	Do. ...	21	
31	Do. ...	Naldha ...	Do. ...	9	
	Burdwan Division.				
32	Burdwan ...	Bhoita ...	Aided ...	6	
33	Ditto ...	Mankar ...	Do. ...	7	
34	Ditto ...	Dainhat ...	Do. ...	3	
35	Ditto ...	Memari ...	Do. ...	25	
36	Ditto ...	Purbasthali ...	Do. ...	8	
37	Ditto ...	Saktoria ...	Do. ...	3	
38	Ditto ...	Rayna ...	Do. ...	11	
39	Birbhum ...	Bandghora ...	Do. ...	18	
40	Ditto ...	Nakrakonda ...	Do. ...	16	
41	Bankura ...	Kucheakole ...	Do. ...	Nil.	
42	Ditto ...	Kotalpur ...	Do. ...	1	
43	Ditto ...	Kuchkuchia ...	Do. ...	Nil.	
44	Ditto ...	Palasdanga ...	Do. ...	4	
45	Ditto ...	Sonamukhi ...	Do. ...	2	
46	Midnapore ...	Chandrakona Jerat.	Do. ...	4	
47	Ditto ...	Ghatal ...	Do. ...	Nil.	
48	Ditto ...	Garbetta ...	Do. ...	2	
49	Ditto ...	Jara	Do. ...	1	
50	Ditto ...	Pingla ...	Do. ...	4	
51	Ditto ...	Gopalnagar ...	Do. ...	5	
52	Hooghly ...	Balagarh ...	Do. ...	2	
53	Ditto ...	Bhastara ...	Do. ...	11	
54	Ditto ...	Paghati ...	Do. ...	1	

Number.	District.	Name of school.	Government or aided.	Number of Muhammadan boys.	REMARKS.
	Burdwan Division —concld.				
55	Hooghly ...	Chatra ...	Aided ...	3	
56	Ditto ...	Chinsura United Free.	Do. ...	3	
57	Ditto ...	Dashghora ...	Do. ...	1	
58	Ditto ...	Ilsaba-Mondalai	Do. ...	9	
59	Ditto ...	Bhandirhati ...		5	
60	Ditto ...	Jonai ...	Do. ...	3	
61	Ditto ...	Kaikulla ...	Do. ...	10	
62	Ditto ...	Konnagar ...	Do. ...	16	
63	Ditto ...	Serampore ...	Do. ...	8	
64	Ditto ...	Guptipara ...	Do. ...	13	
65	Ditto ...	Somra ...	Do. ...	12	
66	Ditto ...	Serampore Collegiate.	Do. ...	1	
67	Ditto ...	Uttarpara ...	Government	4	
68	Howrah ...	Jagatballavpur ...	Aided ...	26	
69	Ditto ...	Jhinkara ...	Do. ...	1	
70	Ditto ...	Maju ...	Do. ...	14	
71	Ditto ...	Narit ...	Do. ...	3	
72	Ditto ...	Jaipur Fakirdas ...	Do. ...	8	
73	Ditto ...	Panitras ...	Do. ...	9	
74	Ditto ...	Jhaparda ...	Do. ...	14	
75	Ditto ...	Rashpur ...	Do. ...	Nil.	
76	Ditto ...	Garbhawanipur ...	Do. ...	6	
77	Ditto ...	Baluti ...	Do. ...	Nil.	
	Chittagong Division.				
78	Chittagong Hill-tracts.	Rangamati ...	Aided ...	16	
79	*Dacca Division*		Nil.		
80	*Rajshahi Division.*		Nil.		

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 2.

BENGAL BUDGET FOR 1916-17.

The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell presented the Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1916-17.

BUDGET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, 1916-17.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

FINANCE.

Calcutta, the 25th March 1916.

MEMORANDUM.

In accordance with Rule 33 (1) of the Bengal Legislative (Financial Statement) Rules, 1912, published with Notification No. 1482 F., dated the 10th December 1912, the Budget will be presented to the Council on the 27th March 1916.

2. No change has been made in the figures as included in the Revised Financial Statement. An Appendix C has been added, as usual, to show the transactions of District Boards and the District Road Fund (Darjeeling), although this does not form part of the Provincial Budget proper.

3. The Members in charge of the different departments would be much obliged, if, in accordance with the practice in previous years, Hon'ble Members will give as early intimation as possible of any points which they may desire to raise, in order that information may be collected regarding them.

N. D. BEATSON BELL.

BUDGET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, 1916-17.

PART I.—General Review.

(1) ACCOUNTS FOR 1914-15.

In the revised estimate for 1914-15, which was laid before the Council on the 27th March 1915, the receipts of the year were taken at Rs. 6,20,06,000 and the charges at Rs. 6,56,86,000, while the estimated closing balance was Rs. 2,81,31,000. The accounts of the year, which have now been finally closed, show that the actual receipts amounted to Rs. 6,22,09,895 and the charges to Rs. 6,67,60,681, and the closing balance was Rs. 2,72,60,325. The receipts were thus better by Rs. 2,03,895, this improvement having occurred chiefly under Provincial Rates (Rs. 60,153), due to realization of arrear Public Works Cess; Income Tax (Rs. 12,305), owing to the continued prosperity of banks and industrial concerns in 1913-14; Jails (Rs. 1,03,256) on account of larger supplies of gunnies and other manufactures to the Military and other departments; and Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 92,750), owing to the sale of the old Presidency Jail buildings and the surplus profits of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway. The actual charges were also higher by Rs. 10,71,681, chiefly under Refunds and Drawbacks (Rs. 36,906), due to heavy refund of license fees for Excise shops towards the closing months of the year, and refund of Public Works Cess; Courts of Law (Rs. 71,200), on account of larger payments to pleaders and counsel in political cases; Education (Rs. 6,81,022), chiefly caused by the payment of Rs. 1,59,000 to the Calcutta University, being the unspent balance of the eight lakhs grant sanctioned for the acquisition of the fish market adjoining the University buildings, and by the payment of arrear salaries consequent on promotions to the Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services being sanctioned from 1912-13, and Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 8,81,625), due to larger expenditure in the latter part of the year and larger advance collection of road metal.

(2) REVISED ESTIMATE, 1915-16.

2. The revised estimate for 1915-16 as now passed, on the basis of the actuals of the first nine, ten or in some cases eleven, months of the current year, is compared below with the sanctioned estimate for the year:—

	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Better (+) or worse (−).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance ...	2,81,31,000	2,72,60,000	−8,71,000
Revenue receipts ...	5,61,40,000	5,68,16,000	+6,76,000
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial Revenues ...	+56,67,000	+58,15,000	+1,48,000
Total receipts ...	6,18,07,000	6,26,31,000	+8,24,000
Grand Total ...	8,99,38,000	8,98,91,000	−47,000
Total expenditure ...	6,58,29,000	6,40,01,000	+18,28,000
Closing balance ...	2,41,09,000	2,58,90,000	+17,81,000

3. The increase under Transfer between Imperial and Provincial Revenues is due to the following additional assignments :—

	Rs.
Additional assignment for forms, etc., for the Assam Administration	+81,000
Assignment for forms, etc., for Bihar and Orissa	+45,000
Assignment to Bihar and Orissa in connection with training of shoals in the Ganges ...	-10,000
Reduction in the assignment from Bihar and Orissa in connection with fishery experiments	-7,000
Additional assignment in connection with scientific research by Dr. J. C. Bose ...	+31,000
Assignment for Archæological works ...	+8,000
Total ...	+1,48,000

4. The increase of revenue is the net result of increases under some heads and decreases under others. The improvements aggregate Rs. 24,21,000 ; and are chiefly under the following heads :—

Land Revenue—(Rs. 3,31,000), due to better collections of ordinary revenue and collections from Government estates owing to improvement in the jute trade, and to the sale of certain khas mahal lands to the Calcutta Improvement Trust.

Stamps—(Rs. 9,50,000), due to larger sales of both general and court-fee stamps owing to the partial recovery of trade as well as the opening of the Share Market which remained closed during the last few months of 1914-15.

Provincial Rates—(Rs. 1,15,000), due to collection of arrear Public Works Cess for 1912-13 and preceding years.

Income Tax—(Rs. 3,50,000), due to better collections from banks and industrial concerns than expected last year.

Registration—(Rs. 1,00,000), due to an increase in the number of registrations owing to the effects of flood and scarcity in certain tracts and the rise in prices.

Jails—(Rs. 1,73,000), due to larger supplies to the Military Department.

Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—(Rs. 1,67,000), chiefly under Cinchona plantation on account of larger sales of quinine.

Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department—(Rs. 1,75,000), mainly due to adjustment of the value of racks dismantled from the Secretariat buildings at Dacca and to the sale-proceeds of the Calcutta Police Office buildings.

The decrease, on the other hand, amounts to Rs. 17,45,000, and is mainly under the following heads :—

Excise—(Rs. 10,00,000), due to smaller consumption owing to high prices of food-grains, to scarcity in some areas and to economic conditions arising from the war.

Forests—(Rs. 3,25,000), caused by the slump in trade on account of the war and shortage in sales of timber in the Sunderbans, Jalpaiguri and Buxa on account of bad market conditions.

Courts of Law—(Rs. 73,000), mainly under General fees, fines and forfeitures.

Ports and Pilotage—(Rs. 2,05,000), due to smaller receipts from pilotage in the Port of Calcutta owing to the effect of the war on shipping.

Miscellaneous—(Rs. 60,000), chiefly under unclaimed deposits.

5. On the expenditure side the revised estimate shows a total decrease of Rs. 35,05,000, which is mainly under the following heads :—

Land Revenue—(Rs. 1,29,000), due to savings in the grants for salaries and Survey and Settlement charges and in the grant for the improvement of Government estates owing to the enforcement of economy.

Forests—(Rs. 46,000), mainly to curtailment of expenditure on communications, buildings and improvements, etc.

Ports and Pilotage—(Rs. 71,000), due to the dislocation of seaborne trade which reduced the earnings of pilots.

Education—(Rs. 16,01,000), due to savings in the Imperial grants for both recurring and non-recurring expenditure.

Medical—(Rs. 8,61,000), due to savings in the grant for works of sanitary improvement and non-utilization of the grant for equipment of the School of Tropical Medicine, and the transfer of a portion of the grant for sanitation to the heads Civil Works in charge of civil officers and the Public Works Department.

Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—(Rs. 11,000), due to savings in the grants (1) for supplies and services of the Cinchona Factory, (2) for Inspector of Factories, (3) for fishery experiments, and (4) for the charges of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

Superannuation—(Rs. 2,56,000), due to smaller payments for commutation of pensions and savings in the grant for retired allowances.

Stationery and Printing—(Rs. 70,000), due to savings partly in the Government presses and partly under stationery supplied from Central Stores.

Miscellaneous—(Rs. 3,58,000), chiefly due to the transfer of charges for grain allowance to the different departments by re-appropriation from the lump provision, and partly to the adjustment of grants made by His Excellency to the appropriate heads.

On the other hand, there was a total increase of expenditure of Rs. 16,77,000, of which the most noticeable items are :—

Courts of Law—(Rs. 1,16,000), due to larger payments to pleaders and counsel in connection with political and other cases and to charges under the Defence of India Act.

Jails—(Rs. 2,36,000) on account of increased expenditure under rations and larger purchase of raw materials for the manufacture of supplies to the Military Department.

Police—(Rs. 1,91,000), due to the debit of grain allowance charges by transfer from 32—Miscellaneous, and to larger expenditure on Supplies and Services and Contingencies of the District Police.

Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department—(Rs. 3,12,000), due to additional grants sanctioned for land acquisition and construction of buildings, for the Dacca University, Baker Hostel and Calcutta University Institute, and other works.

Civil Works in charge of the Civil Department—(Rs. 17,000), due to grants to local funds for works of sanitary improvements by transfer from Medical.

6. The net result of these changes is that the closing balance of 1915-16, which was estimated in March last at Rs. 2,11,09,000, is now placed at Rs. 2,58,90,000. The increase is chiefly due to smaller expenditure under Education, Medical and Superannuation as mentioned above, and partly to the special assignments mentioned in paragraph 3 and to increase of revenue under Stamps, Income Tax and Land Revenue.

(3) BUDGET ESTIMATE, 1916-17.

7. The opening balance of 1916-17 is the closing balance of 1915-16, and is therefore Rs. 2,58,90,000.

8. The estimates of the year as approved by the Government of India adopt Rs. 6,20,04,000 as receipts and Rs. 6,17,97,000 as expenditure, and

a closing balance of Rs. 2,60,97,000. A portion of the closing balance is earmarked for the following special expenditure :—

	Rs.
Minimum balance	20,00,000
Balance of discretionary grant	6,97,000
Balance of the Imperial grant for the reorganization of subordinate police and river police in Eastern Bengal (non-recurring) ...	10,77,000
Balance of the Imperial grant for the School of Tropical Medicine	13,000
Balance of the Imperial grant for Sanitation ..	55,20,000
Ditto ditto ditto Education ...	91,63,000
Ranchi Lunatic Asylum	25,00,000
Amount earmarked for Provincial equipments for three years as promised	21,00,000
Grant promised to the Belgachia Hospital ...	5,00,000
Total ...	2,11,70,000
This leaves a free balance, which could be spent in future years, of	19,27,000
Total ..	2,60,97,000

9. In the exceptional circumstances of the present year it has been found impossible to provide for the regrant of all the unexpended balances of the Imperial grants for Education, Sanitation, Police and the Discretionary grant. Under the orders of the Government of India the budget has been prepared on the principle that the Provincial balances would not be available for expenditure in 1916-17, while the total expenditure must be kept within the estimated revenue. The departmental budgets were, therefore, pruned to the utmost extent and no proposals for expenditure that could safely be postponed were admitted. The expenditure heads accordingly only provide for current normal expenditure and unavoidable expansion. Even the recurring grant for Education, which included the provision for the Dacca University (5 lakhs recurring and one lakh non-recurring for five years) has been omitted and a provision of 2½ lakhs only has been made in the budget for grants for sanitary improvements against 9½ lakhs, the recurring allotment. The total estimated charges for 1916-17, however, amount to Rs. 6,17,97,000, which is less than the income by Rs. 2,07,000; and provision has been made for the following noticeable non-recurring items :—

	Rs.
Grant for gratuitous relief	2,25,000
Non-recurring grant to the Police Department for Police buildings, etc., in connection with the reorganization of the Eastern Bengal Police and River Police (including works in progress)...	1,58,670
Non-recurring grant to the Education Department for expenditure on buildings (works in progress)	71,000
Salaries, establishment and other charges for the Press Censors	45,000
Charges under the Defence of India Act ...	1,00,000
Extra expenses for manning the steamer *Guide* while employed on station duty at Port Blair ...	20,000
Grant to the Calcutta University for hostels, being the unspent balance of the ten lakhs sanctioned by the Government of India	50,000
Additional grant to the Calcutta University to be given from the Provincial revenues	2,23,000

10. A schedule is attached showing the new schemes costing individually more than Rs. 5,000 in any one year which have been included in

the budget. The non-recurring charges on account of these schemes amount to Rs. 3,19,133 and the recurring charges to Rs. 5,25,371. The budget includes, in addition, the following new items of a more or less petty nature :—

(*a*) NON-RECURRING CHARGES.

	Rs.
Land Revenue—	
Rewards for arrest of dacoits	3,000
Revision of the record-of-rights	9,000
Stamps—	
Regrant of savings in the grant for contract contingencies, Calcutta Collectorate	2,715
Forests—	
Purchase of an elephant for the Chittagong Hill Tracts Division to replace a casualty	1,000
Registration—	
Regrant of savings in the allotment for Stationery...	587
General Administration—	
Temporary establishment for the office of the Examiner of Local Funds Accounts	2,128
Balance of the non-recurring grant for the renewal of furniture of the several Government Houses ...	10,000
Charges for the distribution of the weekly war news	7,000
Lump provision for Additional Secretary ...	6,000
Increase in the Record-room grant of the Board of Revenue for sorting and distribution of records ...	3,000
Courts of Law—	
Regrant of savings in the allotment for contract contingencies of the Civil Courts	3,053
Police—	
Officer on special duty in the Criminal Investigation Department	1,500
Deputation of two Inspectors to the David Hare Training College	600
Supply of revolvers to Police Training Schools ...	2,000
Ports and Pilotage—	
Increase of mooring hire owing to war surtax ...	6,711
Education—	
Regrant of savings in the consolidated grant of the Presidency College	5,589
A temporary lecturer for Bethune College ...	1,500
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—	
Construction of a new bungalow for the Assistant Superintendent of Emigration at Goalundo ...	3,000
Removal of his office, etc., to a different site ...	700
Stationery and Printing—	
Regrant of savings in the grant for contract contingencies, Press and Forms Department	9,004
Miscellaneous—	
Subscription to the *Moslem Hitaishi*	9,516
Additional grant to the Lady Minto Nursing Association	2,100
Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers—	
Repairs to three cattle boats in Midnapore ...	850
Repairs to ferry platforms at Basirhat, Baduria and Itinda	1,200
Repairs to Government ferry ghât at Mymensingh	1,259
Repairs to approaches to Ranaghat, Hanskhali, Chuadanga, Gorai and other ferries	625

a closing balance of Rs. 2,60,97,000. A portion of the closing balance is earmarked for the following special expenditure :—

	Rs.
Minimum balance	20,00,000
Balance of discretionary grant	6,97,000
Balance of the Imperial grant for the reorganization of subordinate police and river police in Eastern Bengal (non-recurring) ...	10,77,000
Balance of the Imperial grant for the School of Tropical Medicine	13,000
Balance of the Imperial grant for Sanitation ..	55,20,000
Ditto ditto ditto Education ...	91,63,000
Ranchi Lunatic Asylum	25,00,000
Amount earmarked for Provincial equipments for three years as promised	21,00,000
Grant promised to the Belgachia Hospital ...	5,00,000
Total ...	2,11,70,000
This leaves a free balance, which could be spent in future years, of	19,27,000
Total ..	2,60,97,000

9. In the exceptional circumstances of the present year it has been found impossible to provide for the regrant of all the unexpended balances of the Imperial grants for Education, Sanitation, Police and the Discretionary grant. Under the orders of the Government of India the budget has been prepared on the principle that the Provincial balances would not be available for expenditure in 1916-17, while the total expenditure must be kept within the estimated revenue. The departmental budgets were, therefore, pruned to the utmost extent and no proposals for expenditure that could safely be postponed were admitted. The expenditure heads accordingly only provide for current normal expenditure and unavoidable expansion. Even the recurring grant for Education, which included the provision for the Dacca University (5 lakhs recurring and one lakh non-recurring for five years) has been omitted and a provision of 2½ lakhs only has been made in the budget for grants for sanitary improvements against 9½ lakhs, the recurring allotment. The total estimated charges for 1916-17, however, amount to Rs. 6,17,97,000, which is less than the income by Rs. 2,07,000; and provision has been made for the following noticeable non-recurring items :—

	Rs.
Grant for gratuitous relief	2,25,000
Non-recurring grant to the Police Department for Police buildings, etc., in connection with the reorganization of the Eastern Bengal Police and River Police (including works in progress)...	1,58,670
Non-recurring grant to the Education Department for expenditure on buildings (works in progress)	71,000
Salaries, establishment and other charges for the Press Censors	45,000
Charges under the Defence of India Act ...	1,00,000
Extra expenses for manning the steamer *Guide* while employed on station duty at Port Blair ...	20,000
Grant to the Calcutta University for hostels, being the unspent balance of the ten lakhs sanctioned by the Government of India	50,000
Additional grant to the Calcutta University to be given from the Provincial revenues	2,23,000

10. A schedule is attached showing the new schemes costing individually more than Rs. 5,000 in any one year which have been included in

	Rs.
Education—	
Rent of telephone lines for the use of Inspectors of Schools	1,050
Fees to the professors of Rajshahi and Chittagong Colleges for giving law lectures	4,000
French Mistress, Dow Hill School	1 800
Two governesses for Dinajpur and Pabna zenana classes	1,200
One Lecturer on Accountancy in the Commercial School	3,000
Medical—	
Local allowance for Civil Surgeon of Alipur for charge of the Venereal Hospital	1,800
Clinical Laboratory assistant for the Medical College	1,020
Increase of pay of anæsthetist of the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital	600
Lady doctor for the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital	960
Appointment of two Laboratory assistants in the Medical College	1,056
Agriculture—	
Appointment of a Deputy Superintendent for the Veterinary Department	2,400
Appointment of two additional Overseers in the Burirhat and Rangpur dairy farms	720
Rates and taxes of the Rangpur farms owing to their inclusion within the municipal area	620
Appointment of five clerks and five servants for the Divisional Seed Stores	2,400
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—	
Provision for travelling allowance of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars	1,000
Stationery and Printing—	
Increase of pay of the Deputy Superintendent of the Secretariat Press	600

11. Appendix C shows the transactions of District Funds and District Road Fund, Darjeeling. This statement does not form any part of the Provincial Budget, but is annexed thereto for convenience of reference.

PART II.—Detailed remarks on the Budget for 1916-17.

RECEIPTS.

12. *Land Revenue.*—The total collections in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 2,82,67,073, and the estimate for 1916-17, as passed by the Government of India, is Rs. 2,97,99,000 against Rs. 2,92,28,000, the revised estimate for 1915-16. The estimate includes Rs. 22,78,000 for recoveries of Survey and Settlement charges against Rs. 13,75,000, provided on the same account in the revised estimate for 1915-16.

13. The estimated Provincial share of Land Revenue is calculated thus :—

	Estimate, 1915-16.	Revised estimate, 1915-16.	Estimate, 1916-17.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Gross Land Revenue ...	2,91,49,000	2,92,28,000	2,97,99,000
Deduct—Estimated collections from Government Estates (wholly Provincial) ...	44,37,000	46,00,000	45,00,000
Deduct—Recoveries of cost of maintenance of boundary pillars (wholly Provincial)	.....	3,000	4,000
Deduct—Recoveries of Survey and Settlement Charges (wholly Imperial) ...	17,92,000	13,75,000	22,78,000
Total deduction ...	62,29,000	59,78,000	67,82,000

	Estimate, 1915-16.	Revised estimate, 1915-16.	Estimate, 1916-17.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Net amount divisible between Imperial and Provincial revenues	2,29,20,000	2,32,50,000	2,30,17,000
Provincial share, one-half ...	1,14,60,000	1,16,25,000	1,15,08,000
Add—Collections from Government Estates (wholly Provincial)	41,37,000	46,00,000	45,00,000
Add—Recoveries of cost of maintenance of boundary pillars (wholly Provincial)	.....	3,000	4,000
Total Provincial receipts	1,58,97,000	1,62,28,000	1,60,12,000

14. *Stamps.*—The Budget estimate of the total revenue from Stamps for 1915-16 was passed by the Government of India at Rs. 2,03,00,000. The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 2,02,68,265, while those in the first eleven months of 1915-16, exclusive of receipts on account of unified stamps used as receipt stamps, exceeded the figures of the corresponding period of the preceding year by Rs. 17,51,000. In view of those figures and in consideration of further adjustment between the Postal and the Stamp Departments of receipts from the sale of unified stamps, the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been provisionally placed at Rs. 2,22,00,000. On account of the large increase anticipated in 1915-16, it is not safe to provide for a large increase in 1916-17; and since the sale of court-fee stamps in Calcutta will be affected by the creation of the new Patna High Court, allowance has been made for a small increase of two lakhs and the estimate for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 2,24,00,000. The Provincial share is one-half and amounts to Rs. 1,11,00,000 for 1915-16 and Rs. 1,12,00,000 for 1916-17.

15. *Excise.*—The total collections under this head in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 1,53,74,621 and the estimate for 1915-16 was passed by the Government of India at Rs. 1,60,00,000. The actuals in the first eleven months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 1,15,000 as compared with those of the corresponding period of the preceding year, and the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been placed at Rs. 1,50,00,000. The revenue under this head depends mostly on the economic condition of the people. This has been largely affected by the war. The jute trade has been slightly better than during the last year, but agricultural distress has occurred in some districts owing to drought or flood. During the continuance of the war the receipts under this head are not expected to rise and the estimate for 1916-17 was provisionally passed for the same amount as the revised estimate for 1915-16. But the new taxation on liquors recently imposed will bring in an increase of Rs. 50,000 in 1916-17 and the total estimate has been placed at Rs. 1,50,50,000. The receipts under this head are wholly Provincial.

16. *Provincial Rates.*—The collections from the Public Works cess have been surrendered to District Boards since the year 1913-14, but the arrears of 1912-13 and the preceding year are still under collection. They amounted to Rs. 1,15,116 in the first ten months of 1915-16 and are expected to be Rs. 1,25,000 by the close of the year. Nothing is expected to be left for collection in 1916-17. Under General Rates for the management of private estates the estimate for 1915-16 is Rs. 1,10,000, but in view of the decrease in the collections in the first nine months of the current year, the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 1,00,000 and the estimate for 1916-17 at Rs. 1,01,000.

17. *Income Tax.*—The receipts under this head in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 69,84,610 and the estimate for 1915-16 as passed by the Government of India was Rs. 61,00,000. The actual collections in the first eleven months of 1915-16, however, show a decrease of

Rs. 1,40,000, as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year; and the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been placed at Rs. 68,00,000. Owing to the continuance of the war, the conditions of trade are unfavourable and no increase in collections can be expected next year, as the assessment for 1916-17 will be based on the profits of 1915-16. The estimate for 1916-17 was originally passed for Rs. 66,00,000, but additional taxation imposed by the Government of India as shown below is expected to bring in an increase of revenue of Rs. 40,80,000 and the total estimate for 1916-17 has now been placed at Rs. 1,06,80,000. The Provincial share is one-half and amounts to Rs. 31,00,000 for 1915-16 and Rs. 53,40,000 for 1916-17 :—

Incomes from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 9,999 a year will pay 6 pies in the rupee instead of 5 pies.

Incomes from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 24,999 a year will pay 9 pies in the rupee instead of 5 pies.

Incomes of Rs. 25,000 a year and above will pay one anna in the rupee instead of 5 pies.

The enhanced rates will apply generally to profits of companies and interest on securities, which will be taxed initially at the highest rate subject to abatement or reduction in the case of persons who can show that their total income is such as to warrant a lower rate of taxation or is below the taxable limit.

18. *Forests.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 11,50,000 against Rs. 13,01,196, the actuals of 1914-15. The actual collections in the first eleven months of 1915-16 show a large decrease of Rs. 1,47,000 as compared with those of the corresponding period of the previous year, and the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 11,25,000. The decrease is chiefly due to shortage in sales of timber in the Sundarbans and reduced sales owing to the war. The estimate for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 11,50,000, as increased sales are expected in Buxa, Jalpaiguri and the Sundarbans.

19. *Registration.*—The receipts under this head in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 18,12,868 and the estimate for 1915-16 was passed by the Government of India for Rs. 19,00,000. The actual collections in the first ten months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 1,70,292, as compared with those of the corresponding period of the previous year; agricultural distress in certain districts has increased registrations, and the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 20,00,000, and, in consideration of a probable increase of Rs. 50,000, the estimate for 1916-17 has been passed for Rs. 20,50,000.

20. *Interest.*—The estimate of loans, as submitted to the Government of India, provides for a return in the way of interest during 1916-17 of Rs. 6,40,000 against Rs. 5,13,000, the revised estimate for 1915-16, as shown below :—

	Revised estimate, 1915-16.	Estimate, 1916-17.
	Rs.	Rs.
Interest on advances to cultivators, etc.	1,02,000	1,10,000
Interest on advances to Co-operative Credit Societies	2,000	2,000
Interest on drainage and embankment advances	1,000	10,000
Interest on loans to landholders ...	1,92,000	2,08,000
„ „ „ to municipalities and District Boards, etc. ...	2,16,000	2,80,000
Total ...	5,13,000	6,40,000
Miscellaneous	23,000	14,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	5,36,000	6,54,000

The increase under "Interest on loans to Municipalities and District *Boards" is due to the anticipated realization of interest from the District Board of the 24-Parganas on the Magra Hât Drainage loan; this work has now been completed. The revised estimate under "Miscellaneous" includes Rs. 10,000 for interest on arrears of Public Works Cess not yet paid.*

21. *Law and Justice—Courts of Law.*—The total collections in 1914-15 under this head amounted to Rs. 8,60,139 and the estimate for 1915-16 was passed by the Government of India at Rs. 9,13,000. The actuals in the first ten months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 12,914, chiefly under "General fees and fines, etc.," and the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been placed at Rs. 8,10,000. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 8,30,000. The decrease is due to the transfer of a portion of the fees and miscellaneous receipts of the High Court, Calcutta, to the new Patna High Court.

22. *Jails.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 8,34,256 and those in the first ten months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 1,26,694 over those of the corresponding period of last year, chiefly on account of larger supplies to the Military Department. The budget estimate for 1915-16 has accordingly been raised from Rs. 7,60,000 to Rs. 9,33,000. As it is not anticipated that the supplies to the Military Department will continue to be as large during the coming year, the estimate for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 8,02,000.

23. *Police.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 1,77,419 and the receipts in the first nine months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 23,114, chiefly under Miscellaneous and Presidency Police, due to fewer supplies to private persons, and the revised estimate has been reduced from Rs. 1,86,000 to Rs. 1,57,000. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 1,67,000.

21. *Ports and Pilotage.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 16,20,000 against Rs. 15,52,988, the actuals of 1914-15. The actuals of the first ten months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 1,29,118 as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year, chiefly under Calcutta Pilotage Receipts due to a reduction in the number of vessels entering and leaving the Port of Calcutta in consequence of the dislocation of trade caused by the war. In view of this decrease the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been placed at Rs. 14,15,000 and the estimate for 1916-17 at Rs. 14,25,000.

25. *Education.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 8,86,000 against Rs. 8,17,110, the actuals of 1914-15. The actual collections in the first nine months show an increase of Rs. 27,302 as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year, chiefly under "Schools general," owing to the opening of the residential school at Hastings House, and the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 8,77,000. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed at Rs. 9,05,000 and includes larger collections from Schools—General and Special, but chiefly from the above mentioned school.

26. *Medical.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 3,94,558, but the collections in the first nine months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 32,822, chiefly under "medicines sold by Civil Surgeons, and hospital receipts." The budget estimate for 1915-16 has therefore been reduced from Rs. 3,80,000 to Rs. 3,59,000 in the revised estimate. The estimate for 1916-17 has, however, been placed at Rs. 3,81,000 as larger receipts are expected from contributions. The Indian Research Fund Association has promised a grant of Rs. 1,000 per month for the establishment, etc., employed in the investigation into the causation and prevalence of diabetes in India by Major D. McCay, I.M.S., Professor of Physiology, Medical College, Calcutta.

27. *Agriculture.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 82,000, but the actuals in 1914-15 were Rs. 71,678 and those in the first nine months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 16,841 over those of the corresponding period of last year; the revised estimate for 1915-16 has therefore been placed at Rs. 84,000. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed

at Rs. 94,000 and provides for a growth in the revenue from agricultural farms, especially the Rangpur farm.

28. *Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 3,53,000 against Rs. 4,61,291, the actuals of 1914-15. The collections from the sale of cinchona and its preparations in the first nine months show an increase of Rs. 47,020 over those of the corresponding period of the previous year and the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been raised to Rs. 5,20,000. The estimate for 1916-17 amounts to Rs. 5,22,000.

29. *Receipts in aid of Superannuation.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 40,000, but in view of the actuals of 1914-15 amounting to Rs. 58,567 and those of the first nine months of 1915-16 amounting to Rs. 37,793, the revised estimate for the current year has been placed at Rs. 57,000. The estimate for 1916-17 has, however, been placed at Rs. 56,000.

30. *Stationery and Printing.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 1,49,604, while the budget for 1915-16 was Rs. 1,32,000. This has been reduced to Rs. 1,16,000 in the revised estimate with reference to the actuals of the first nine months of the current year, which show a decrease of Rs. 31,309 as compared with those of the corresponding period of the previous year. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed at Rs. 1,27,000.

31. *Miscellaneous.*—The estimate under this head was Rs 6,90,000 (including Rs. 5,80,000 from unclaimed deposits) against Rs. 6,71,057, the actuals of 1914-15. In the revised estimate the budget has been reduced to Rs. 6,30,000 as the total unclaimed deposits in 1915-16 are not expected to exceed Rs 5,25,000. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed for Rs. 6,52,000 and includes Rs. 5,50,000 for unclaimed deposits.

32. *Irrigation, Major Works (Direct Receipts).*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 2,40,000 against Rs. 2,53,962, the actuals of 1914-15. The actual collections in the first ten months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 7,000, and both the revised estimate for the current year and the estimate for 1916-17 have been placed at Rs. 2,57,000. The Provincial share is one-half and amounts to Rs. 1,29,000.

33. *Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 5,70,000 against Rs. 4,86,466, the actuals of 1914-15, and Rs. 5,65,910, those of 1913-14. The actual collections in the first nine months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 1,03,248 as compared with the figures of the corresponding period of 1914-15. A large increase is expected from the Madaripur Bhil route, and both the revised estimate for the current year and estimate for 1916-17 have been passed at Rs. 6,20,000. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 3,10,000.

34. *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 4,25,000. The actual collections of the first nine months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 35,965 over those of the corresponding period of last year. The increase is due to the adjustment of the value of racks dismantled from the Secretariat buildings at Dacca. The market value of these racks was credited to this head by debit to stock. There is also a special receipt of Rs. 35,000 from the sale of the Lal Bazar Police buildings which have been demolished and sold. The revised estimate for 1915-16 has accordingly been placed at Rs. 6,00,000 against Rs. 5,62,750, the actuals of 1914-15. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 4,30,000.

35. *Transfers between Imperial and Provincial Revenues.*—The estimate includes the following transfers from Imperial Revenues :—

	1915-16.		1916-17.
	Budget.	Revised.	Budget.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Contribution for Famine Relief Scheme	60,000	60,000	60,000
Grants to Calcutta Improvement Trust	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000

The increase under "Interest on loans to Municipalities and District *Boards*" *is due to the anticipated realization of interest from the District Board of the 24-Parganas on the Magra Hât Drainage loan; this work has now been completed. The revised estimate under "Miscellaneous" includes Rs. 10,000 for interest on arrears of Public Works Cess not yet paid.*

21. *Law and Justice—Courts of Law.*—The total collections in 1914-15 under this head amounted to Rs. 8,60,139 and the estimate for 1915-16 was passed by the Government of India at Rs. 9,13,000. The actuals in the first ten months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 12,914, chiefly under "General fees and fines, etc.," and the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been placed at Rs. 8,10,000. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 8,30,000. The decrease is due to the transfer of a portion of the fees and miscellaneous receipts of the High Court, Calcutta, to the new Patna High Court.

22. *Jails.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 8,34,256 and those in the first ten months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 1,26,694 over those of the corresponding period of last year, chiefly on account of larger supplies to the Military Department. The budget estimate for 1915-16 has accordingly been raised from Rs. 7,60,000 to Rs. 9,33,000. As it is not anticipated that the supplies to the Military Department will continue to be as large during the coming year, the estimate for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 8,02,000.

23. *Police.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 1,77,419 and the receipts in the first nine months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 23,114, chiefly under Miscellaneous and Presidency Police, due to fewer supplies to private persons, and the revised estimate has been reduced from Rs. 1,86,000 to Rs. 1,57,000. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 1,67,000.

21. *Ports and Pilotage.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 16,20,000 against Rs. 15,52,988, the actuals of 1914-15. The actuals of the first ten months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 1,29,118 as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year, chiefly under Calcutta Pilotage Receipts due to a reduction in the number of vessels entering and leaving the Port of Calcutta in consequence of the dislocation of trade caused by the war. In view of this decrease the revised estimate for 1915-16 has been placed at Rs. 14,15,000 and the estimate for 1916-17 at Rs. 14,25,000.

25. *Education.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 8,86,000 against Rs. 8,47,110, the actuals of 1914-15. The actual collections in the first nine months show an increase of Rs. 27,302 as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year, chiefly under "Schools general," owing to the opening of the residential school at Hastings House, and the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 8,77,000. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed at Rs. 9,05,000 and includes larger collections from Schools—General and Special, but chiefly from the above mentioned school.

26. *Medical.*—The actuals in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 3,94,558, but the collections in the first nine months of 1915-16 show a decrease of Rs. 32,822, chiefly under "medicines sold by Civil Surgeons, and hospital receipts." The budget estimate for 1915-16 has therefore been reduced from Rs. 3,80,000 to Rs. 3,59,000 in the revised estimate. The estimate for 1916-17 has, however, been placed at Rs. 3,81,000 as larger receipts are expected from contributions. The Indian Research Fund Association has promised a grant of Rs. 1,000 per month for the establishment, etc., employed in the investigation into the causation and prevalence of diabetes in India by Major D. McCay, I.M.S., Professor of Physiology, Medical College, Calcutta.

27. *Agriculture.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 82,000, but the actuals in 1914-15 were Rs. 71,678 and those in the first nine months of 1915-16 show an increase of Rs. 16,841 over those of the corresponding period of last year; the revised estimate for 1915-16 has therefore been placed at Rs. 84,000. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed

	1915-16. Budget.	1915-16. Revised	1916-17 Budget
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
For the amalgamation of the office of the Art Section of the Indian Museum with the Calcutta School of Art ...	1,000	1,000	1,000
For Traffic Registration Office, Bhairab Bazar	1,000	1,000	1,000
Contribution from the Bihar and Orissa Government towards the pay of the electrical staff	8,000	8,000	8,000
Total ...	64,40,000	65,98,000	65,05,000

The estimate also includes the following transfers from Provincial to Imperial Revenues :—

	Budget, 1915-16.	Revised, 1915-16	Budget, 1916-17.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Fixed adjustment under Provincial Settlement ...	7,28,000	7,28,000	7,28,000
Grant to Bihar and Orissa Government for grants to colleges	21,000	21,000	21,000
Grant to Bihar and Orissa for law charges formerly paid by this Government ...	15,000	15,000	15,000
Grant in connection with training of shoals in the Ganges	... .	10,000	12,000
Adjustment for premises No. 9, Hare Street	9,000	9,000	9,000
Assignment to Bihar and Orissa for the new Patna High Court	.....	.....	2,00,000
Revenue from new taxation under Excise and Income Tax (Provincial share) transferred to Imperial	.....	.....	20,90,000
Total ...	7,73,000	7,83,000	30,75,000

The net assignments from Imperial Revenues are therefore :—

	1915-16. Budget	1915-16. Revised	Budget. 1916-17
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
From Imperial to Provincial ...	+64,40,000	+65,98,000	+65,05,000
From Provincial to Imperial ...	- 7,73,000	- 7,83,000	- 30,75,000
Net ...	56,67,000	58,15,000	31,30,000

Expenditure.

36. *Refunds and Drawbacks.*—The total Provincial expenditure in 1915-16 was originally estimated at Rs. 1,11,000, but in view of the actuals of the first nine months of the year this has been raised to Rs. 1,82,000 in the revised estimate for the year against Rs. 2,00,906. the actuals of 1914-15. The increase is due to special refunds of license fees of excise shops in Calcutta. The budget for 1916-17 has been passed at Rs. 1,50,000 based, as usual. on the average actuals of the past three years, excluding special payments.

37. *Assignments and Compensations.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 42,000, but this has been reduced to Rs. 31,000 in the revised estimate with reference to the actuals of 1914-15, amounting to Rs. 34,273,

and the actuals of the first nine months of 1915-16 showing a decrease of Rs. 5,528. The budget for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 35,000. The variations are under *Malikana*, which is always an uncertain item.

38. *Land Revenue.*—The total provincial expenditure for 1916-17 is estimated at Rs. 34,52,000 against Rs. 35,37,000, the revised, and Rs. 36,66,000 the budget estimate for 1915-16, as shown below:—

	1915-16		1916-17.
	Budget.	Revised	Budget.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Charges of District Administration ...	28,48,000	27,98,000	28,18,000
(2) Charges on account of Land Revenue collections	21,000	14,000	15,000
(3) Management of Government Estates ...	5,28,000	1,98,000	4,49,000
(4) Survey and Settlement...	2,00,000	1,62,000	1,00,000
(5) Land Records ...	66,000	65,000	70,000
Total ...	36,66,000	35,37,000	34,52,000

The decrease in the revised under (1) is due to savings under Salaries. The estimate for 1916-17 includes provision for one additional Magistrate, three Joint-Magistrates and eight Assistant Magistrates; additional grants for travelling allowances of officers and for diet and travelling allowances to witnesses. The decrease under (3) is on account of a reduced grant for improvements in Government estates, and that under (4) is due to postponement of new operations.

39. *Stamps.*—The sanctioned estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 6,05,000, which has been raised to Rs. 6,30,000 in the revised owing to larger issues of stamp paper from the Central Stores following the increase of sales. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 6,96,000 and provides for larger issues of stamp paper and discount for the sale of general stamps. It also includes the pay of the newly appointed Probate officer in the Calcutta Collectorate. The charges of this Department are divided equally between the Imperial and Provincial revenues, and the Provincial shares amount to Rs. 3,15,000 and Rs. 3,48,000, respectively.

40. *Excise*—The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 8,39,000 as compared with Rs. 8,03,000, the revised estimate for 1915-16, and Rs. 7,17,585, the actuals of 1914-15. The increase in 1915-16 over the preceding year is due to the reorganization of the Department and its amalgamation with the Salt Department. Under the present arrangement the expenditure of the two Departments is being debited to this head in the first instance and a fixed sum of two lakhs will be transferred to the head "5—Salt—(Imperial)" at the end of the year. Full provision has been made in the budget for the revised establishment, but a saving has been anticipated as the full number of officers will not be entertained during the year.

41. *Income Tax.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 1,52,000 and this has been repeated as the estimate for 1916-17. The revised estimate for 1915-16 has, however, been placed at Rs. 1,54,000 with reference to the actuals of the first nine months. The increase has been caused by the payment of leave allowances in Calcutta. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 76,000 for 1916-17 and Rs. 77,000 for 1915-16.

42. *Forests.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 6,66,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 6,20,000 with reference to the actuals of the first nine months. The decrease is due to curtailment of expenditure on communications and buildings. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 6,54,000 and includes Rs. 4,000 for the purchase of an elephant for the Chittagong Hill Tracts Division to replace a casualty.

43. *Registration.*—The estimate for 1915-16 is Rs. 11,23,000, but in the revised this has been reduced to Rs. 11,22,000 with reference to

the actuals of the first nine months of the year. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 11,09,000 and provides for no new expenditure.

44. *Interest on Ordinary Debt.*—This is interest payable from the Provincial revenues to the Imperial Government on the amount advanced by the latter to the Provincial Government for loans to cultivators, for advances to co-operative societies, for advances on drainage and embankment schemes, and for loans to notabilities, municipalities (excluding presidency corporations) and district boards.

45. *General Administration.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 23,71,000, but in the revised estimate this has been raised to Rs. 21,06,000. The increase is chiefly under Civil Secretariat, due to the adjustment of the charges of the Press Censor to this head instead of to the head "32—Miscellaneous—War Charges," and to larger expenditure under Staff and Household of the Governor owing to the debit to this sub-head of the charges for rates and taxes of Government houses. The estimate for 1916-17 has been passed at Rs. 24,36,000. It includes provision for the Press Censor (Rs. 45,000); for rates and taxes of Government houses (Rs. 38,356); and the balance of the non-recurring grant for furniture of Government houses (Rs. 10,000).

46. *Law and Justice—Courts of Law.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 1,01,24,000, but the revised estimate has been raised to Rs. 1,05,40,000 with reference to the actual charges of the first nine months of the year. The increase was partly under "Law Officers," due to large payments of lawyers' fees in connection with political cases, and partly under "Civil and Sessions Courts," caused by the appointment of additional District and Sessions Judges, by charges under the Defence of India Act in connection with political cases, and by the payment of grain compensation allowance for which provision was made under "32—Miscellaneous." The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 1,00,20,000. The decrease is due to provision having been made for 13 instead of 19 judges of the High Court and some reduction in the establishment and contingent charges of the Appellate Side, owing to the creation of a separate High Court at Patna. The budget includes the following provisions :—

	Rs.
Contract allowance of Rs. 1,000 a month to Mr. Haydn for the supply of typewritten transcripts of the evidence of witnesses given in one court of the Calcutta High Court ...	12,000
Additional Legal Remembrancer and his establishment and contingencies	35,000
Additional grant for fees to pleaders in criminal cases in the mufassil	55,000
Two probationary officers for the Juvenile Court and Detention House for Juvenile Offenders ...	1,200
Four posts of District and Sessions Judges sanctioned by the Secretary of State ...	1,16,107
Establishment for ditto	12,000
Additional grant for allowances to jurors and assessors	7,000
Additional grant for diet and travelling expenses of witnesses	10,000

47. *Jails.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 21,95,000 against Rs. 23,50,828, the actuals of 1914-15. In view of the actuals of the first nine months of 1915-16, the revised estimate for the year has been raised to Rs. 24,31,000. The increase is due to larger charges for diet and for the purchase of clothing owing to a greater influx of prisoners and also to larger outlay on raw materials and European stores for manufactures required by the Military Department. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 25,50,000. It includes larger provision for dieting charges; a lump provision of Rs. 50,000 for revision of the warders' establishment, and Rs. 25,000 for temporary accommodation required in the several jails to meet overcrowded conditions.

48. *Police.*—The following table compares the charges under this head :—

HEADS.	Actuals, 1914-15.	1915-16.		Estimate, 1916-17.
		Budget.	Revised.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Presidency Police ..	17,12,163	17,45,000	18,29,000	18,47,000
Superintendence ...	3,07,941	2,34,000	3,04,000	2,97,000
Criminal Investigation Department ...	5,39,973	5,31,000	5,68,000	5,94,000
District Executive Force	71,24,841	73,87,000	76,10,000	77,01,000
Village Police ...	5,907	8,000	27,000	6,000
Special ,, ...	3,02,492	3,01,000	3,24,000	3,19,000
Railway ,, ...	3,46,232	3,25,000	3,60,000	3,45,000
Cattle-pounds ...	132	250	500	250
Refunds	2,861	3,750	3,500	3,000
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—250
Total ...	1,03,72,545	1,05,35,000	1,10,26,000	1,11,12,000

In view of the actuals of the first nine months of 1915-16, the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 1,10,26,000. The increase is mainly due to the adjustment of charges on account of grain compensation allowance by transfer from "32—Miscellaneous," and partly also to the appointment of another Deputy Inspector-General and the deputation of officers to special duty. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 1,11,12,000 and includes the following charges :—

	Rs.
Additional European police for duty in trading quarters, Calcutta	26,260
Creation of a 3rd Armed Company in Calcutta ...	25,000
Entertainment of temporary clerks in the offices of the Inspector-General and Deputy Inspector-General of Police	10,740
Deputation of Mr. F. D. Bartley as Intelligence officer	11,280
Buildings in connection with the scheme for the reorganization of the subordinate police ...	1,58,670
Revision of the scale of armourers in the Civil Police and their allowances	2,500
Supply of extra arms for police stations, headquarters force and training schools ...	5,000
Entertainment of two circle inspectors for Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions in Bakarganj	7,003
Grant of a local allowance of Re. 1 to constables of both armed and unarmed branches posted on duty to Calcutta, Alipore, Sealdah, Belliaghatta and Chitpur	8,424
Reorganization of the River Police in Eastern Bengal	60,000
Settlement of Karwal Nuts	3,600
Appointment of an additional Inspector and a Sub-Inspector for the Finger Print Bureau ...	4,500
Increased grant for revision of boat establishment in the Eastern Bengal districts	48,121
Additional staff for Navinagar Police station, Tippera	1,521
Lump provision for further police reforms ...	1,50,000

	Rs.
Policing of the Bally-Burdwan chord line of the East Indian Railway	3,000
Revising the training capacity of Berhampore School	2,236
Guard for shell factories	6,330
Supply of arms to the Calcutta Police Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors	5,646
Reorganization of the Eastern Bengal Railway Police	8,000

19. *Ports and Pilotage.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 14,76,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 11,05,000, due to loss payments to pilots owing to the partial suspension of trade. The estimate for 1916-17 amounts to Rs. 13,30,000 and generally follows the revised, with reduced grants for victualling officers and men afloat and for the purchase of marine stores. It includes Rs. 1,50,000 for a grant to the Chittagong Port Trust and Rs. 20,000 for charges for the hire of vessels for towing the yacht *Rhotas* during His Excellency's river tours.

50. *Education.*—The following table shows the charges under this head since 1911-12 :—

Heads	Actuals.				1915-16.		Budget, 1916-17.
	1911-12.	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	Budget.	Revised.	
University	66,028	5,15,000	1,18,500	2,73,960	1,15,000	1,15,000	1,15,000
Direction	2,17,189	1,78,080	1,51,032	1,62,563	1,58,000	1,68,000	1,52,000
Inspection	8,01,480	7,82,598	7,83,208	9,33,936	8,00,000	9,23,000	8,95,000
Government Colleges, General	8,17,976	8,50,209	8,55,924	10,04,105	9,12,000	9,68,000	9,36,000
Government Colleges, Professional	3,35,128	4,00,575	3,57,324	3,61,112	3,54,000	3,78,000	3,62,000
Government Schools, General	14,38,548	19,81,325	22,81,411	21,25,229	11,97,000	18,12,000	13,08,000
Government Schools, Special	5,75,620	5,98,433	5,78,827	6,77,468	6,09,000	7,39,000	6,81,000
Grants-in-aid ...	14,28,091	17,21,594	20,99,939	31,11,918	25,06,000	30,25,000	17,53,000
Scholarships	2,19,049	2,24,400	2,41,638	2,41,616	2,44,000	2,37,000	2,44,000
Miscellaneous ...	2,17,307	1 20,518	6 12,200	3,13,636	1,44,000	1,80,000	1,91,000
Refunds	2,454	1,097	2,512	1,479	3,000	2,000	2,000
Expenditure from the non-recurring assignment of 75 lakhs	...	...	...	...	8,00,000	11,000	71,000
Lump provision for improving popular education ...	...	...	...	...	9,25,000	1,32,000	9,25,000
Lump provision for secondary education ...	...	...		...	1,50,000	...	1,50,000
Lump provision for female education (recurring) ...	...	...	...	..	30,000	27,000	30,000
Expenditure of the recurring grant	...	...	...	...	13,20,000	2,00,000	8,20,000
Further recurring grant ...	...	...	...	...	1,50,000	44,000	1,50,000
Dacca University and hostels (non-recurring) ...	...	...	...	...	1,00,000	...	...
Dacca University and hostels (recurring) ...	...	...	...	...	45,000	...	45,000
Total ...	61,21,873	73,76,829	81,12,515	92,07,022	1,05,62,000	89,61,000	88,30,000

The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 1,05,62,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 89,61,000 with reference to the actuals of the first nine months of the year. The decrease is chiefly due to the non-utilization to the full extent of the Imperial grants, and to the transfer of some grants to the Public Works Department for the construction of buildings, chiefly the Dacca University, the University Institute, Calcutta,

the Baker Madrassa Hostel and the *guru*-training schools in Thakurgaon and other places. The budget for 1916-17 includes the following items :—

	Rs.
Balance of the grant to the Calcutta University for hostel buildings (Rs. 10 lakhs) sanctioned by the Government of India	50,000
Additional grant to the Calcutta University for hostels in addition to the 10 lakhs sanctioned by the Government of India	2,23,000
Grant for the completion of the buildings in progress in 1915-16 which cannot be met from the Public Works Department grant	71,000
Reorganization of the clerical establishment in the office of the Director of Public Instruction ...	5,388
Inspectors for Muhammadan Education ...	25,860
Additional grant for travelling allowances of Inspectors, Assistant, Deputy and Sub-Inspectors, and their establishments	26,000
Regrant of savings out of the consolidated grant of the Presidency College	5,589
Temporary lecturer for the Bethune College ...	1,500
Fees to Professors at Chittagong and Rajshahi Colleges for law lectures	1,000
Provision for Hastings House School	58,030
A French mistress for Dow Hill School ...	1,800
Two governesses for Dinajpur and Palma zenana classes	1,200
Provision for additional stipends to pupils in *guru*-training schools	30,000
One Lecturer on Accountancy in the Government Commercial School	3,000
Grant for Scientific Research by Dr. J. C. Bose, including his allowances, etc.	60,100

The Imperial grants are likely to be expended in 1915-16 thus :—

	Grant.	Probable Expenditure in 1915-16.		Total probable expenditure.
		Under Education.	Under Civil Works.	
Non-recurring.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Lump grant to the Calcutta University ...	10,00,000	9,50,000	.....	9,50,000
Lump grant for expenditure	8,00,000	1,42,000	3,76,000	5,18,000
Dacca University Hostels	1,00,000	.....	.....	.....
Recurring.				
Lump grant for expenditure for improving popular education ...	9,25,000	8,68,000	11,000	8,79,000
Lump grant ...	13,20,000	6,32,0 0	4,75,000	11,07,000
Grant for Secondary education	1,50,000	1,50,000	.....	1,50,000
Grant for female education	30,000	30,000	.....	30,000
Further grant ...	1,50,000	1,46,000	.....	1,46,000
Dacca University ...	45,000	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	45,20,000	29,18,000	8,62,000	37,80,000

51. *Medical.*—The budget grant for 1915-16 was Rs. 36,13,000. This has been reduced to Rs. 27,52,000 in the revised estimate with reference to the actuals of the first nine months of the year. The decrease is chiefly due to savings in the grant for expenditure on sanitation and also to the transfer of a portion of the grant to the Public Works Department, to Municipalities and District Boards to the head "15—Civil Works," and non-utilization of the grants for the School of Tropical Medicine and medical relief. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 28,25,000 and includes the following items :—

	Rs.
Local allowance for Civil Surgeon, Alipore, for charge of the Venereal Hospital	1,800
Clinical laboratory assistant for Medical College	1,020
Lady doctor for Sambhu Nath Pundit Hospital ...	960
Lump grant for sanitation	2,50,000
Charges for gratuitous relief to malaria-stricken areas	5,000
Government contribution towards the pay of Health Officers	26,100
Additional Demonstrator for Medical College ...	1,200
Increased provision for diet, clothing and bedding of lunatic asylums	5,000
Grant for establishment, etc., for investigation into the causation and prevalence of Diabetes in India	12,000

The grants for Presidency hospitals are shown below :—

	Salaries	Establishment	Allowances.	Clothing and bedding.	Diet	Other supplies.	Contingencies.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Medical College Hospital	38,000	19,760	680	90,000		1,29,000	86,560	3,64,000
General Hospital ...	58,000	9,468	1,360	79,000		42,200	49,972	2,40,000
Campbell Hospital ..	14,520	27,972	11,000	37,000		21,500	35,008	1,47,000
Albert Victor Asylum for Lepers ...	5,400	3,600	180	17,000		1,200	7,620	35,000

The following grants have been sanctioned from the lump provision for Sanitation in 1915-16 :—

	Rs.
Bankura Municipality for drainage and water-supply of the town	11,025
Anti-malarial operations conducted by the Sanitary Commissioner	12,500
Distribution of quinine amongst school children in the district of Hooghly and in the Kalna subdivision	5,000
Chittagong Municipality to meet the pay of its European Engineer-Secretary	10,200
Grant to the Calcutta Corporation for drainage of the fringe area	12,017
Temporary establishment, Sanitary Engineer's office	30,000
Experiment on the sewage of Calcutta ...	5,100
Contribution to Municipal Dispensaries for the supply of adequate quantities of quinine ...	3,825
Contribution to Municipal Dispensaries towards the pay of Sanitary Inspectors	3,860
Rent of the house hired for the laboratory of the Special Deputy Sanitary Commissioner for malaria research	1,160
Sanitary arrangements, Lower Ganges Bridge project	856
Faridpur Municipality for drainage	3,333
Dacca Municipality for conservancy ...	7,500

	Rs.
Bankura District Board for tank-digging and other sanitary works	50,000
Stegomyia investigation	2,000
Cost of the Town-planning exhibition by Professor Geddes	11,000
Free vaccination in Bakarganj	3,500
Grant to Tippera District Board for excavating tanks	57,451
Improvement of sanitation in the town of Bankura	5,000
Printing of the Bengali Almanac for 1323 for quinine advertisement	4,692
Burdwan Municipality towards drainage scheme	25,390

52. *Political.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 30,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 24,000 with reference to the actuals of the first eight months of the year. The decrease is due to the post of the Political Agent, Hill Tippera, having remained vacant from December 1914 to July 1915. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 23,000.

53. *Agriculture.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 11,17,000, but with reference to the actuals of the first nine months of the year the revised estimate has been raised to Rs. 11,61,000. The increase is due to the expansion of the operations of the Agricultural Department as well as to the appointment of additional auditors and an additional grant for travelling allowances in the Co-operative Department. The budget for 1916-17 is Rs. 11,29,000 and includes the following items of expenditure :—

	Rs.
Deputy Superintendent for the Veterinary Department	2,400
Allotment for travelling allowance of ditto ...	2,000
Provision for travelling allowance of officers of the Veterinary College to other provinces to enlarge their experience	1,000
Travelling allowance of additional Veterinary assistants	5,800
Additional cost of serum	5,000
Additional grant for travelling allowance of officers of the Agriculture Department ...	22,000
Appointment of two overseers for the Burirhat and Rangpur dairy farms	720
Appointment of clerks and servants for the Divisional Seed Stores	2,400
Travelling allowance of the Superintendents and overseers of the Experimental farms ...	1,730
Potato, Bonemeal and Ufra experiments ...	30,000
Annual contribution to the Indian Tea Association	4,000
Additional grant for seeds, manures, implements, rents, etc., of the Divisional Seed Stores ...	8,235
Additional Inspectors of the Co-operative Department	10,000
Additional grant for travelling allowance of the officers of the department	5,000

54. *Scientific and other Miscellaneous Departments.*—The total charges under this head for 1915-16 were originally estimated at Rs. 5,05,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 4,64,000 with reference to the actuals of the first nine months of the year. The decrease is due to savings in the grant for contingencies of the Cinchona factory, to the post of the Certifying Surgeon being vacant for some time, to smaller expenditure on fishery experiments and to savings in the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, the post of the Assistant Registrar being vacant for some time

and the office removed to Government buildings. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 6,44,000 and includes the following provisions :—

	Rs.
Expenditure on the development of industries ...	1,00,000
Director of Industries	30,000
Additional grant for stores for Cinchona factory ...	7,500
Grant for the maintenance of Dacca Museum ...	6,000
Cost of constructing a new bungalow for the Assistant Superintendent of Emigration, Goalundo ...	3,000
Cost of the removal and repairs of the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Emigration and other sheds to a different site	1,100
Travelling allowance of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars	1,000

55. *Superannuation.*—The estimate for 1915-16 is Rs. 31,29,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 31,73,000 owing to smaller expenditure on commutation of pensions and retired allowances. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 33,71,000, and includes two lakhs for commuted value of pensions and an increased provision of Rs. 75,000 over the revised estimate for superannuation, as the charges under this head rise yearly as the number of pensioners increases.

56. *Stationery and Printing.*—The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 13,18,000 against Rs. 13,87,000 and Rs. 13,17,000, the budget and revised estimates for 1915-16 respectively, and Rs. 12,69,717, the actuals of 1914-15. The following table compares the figures :—

Heads.	Actuals, 1914-15.	Budget estimate, 1915-16.	Revised estimate, 1915-16.	Budget estimate, 1916-17.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Forms Department at the Presidency ...	65,264	.....	.....	.....
Stationery purchased in this country ...	33,030	28,000	32,000	32,000
Government Presses ...	5,66,836	6,91,000	6,51,000	6,62,000
Printing at private presses	2,860	3,000	3,000	3,000
Stationery supplied from Central Stores ...	6,00,918	6,60,000	6,30,000	6,50,000
Refunds	809	2,000	1,000	1,000
Total ...	12,69,717	13,87,000	13,17,000	13,18,000

The Forms Department has been amalgamated with the Presidency Jail Press from the beginning of 1915-16. The savings in 1915-16 under Government Presses were chiefly under overtime and contingencies. The decrease under Presses in 1916-17 is due to smaller requirements of European stores for the Presidency Jail Press.

57. *Miscellaneous.*—The budget estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 10,16,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 6,58,000. The reduction is chiefly due to the adjustment under the appropriate heads of the expenditure on grain allowance and the charges sanctioned by His Excellency from the provision for petty grants, and to the reappropriation of the reserve provision of Rs. 1,50,000 in order to meet expenditure under other heads. Against these transfers an additional grant of

Rs. 2½ lakhs was sanctioned under Gratuitous relief. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 12,28,000 and includes the following items :—

	Rs.
Gratuitous relief	2,25,000
Allotment for petty grants by His Excellency ...	1,00,000
Ditto for grain allowance	1,00,000
General Reserve	2,00,000
Guarantee charges for telegraph lines	13,000
Subscription to the *Mostem Hitaishi*	9,516
Rewards for proficiency in Oriental languages ...	10,000

58. *Irrigation Major Works (Working expenses).*—The actual expenditure during 1914-15 was Rs. 2,57,700 and the estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 2,67,000, but in view of the actuals of the first nine months of the year the revised estimate has been reduced to Rs. 2,00,000. The decrease is chiefly due to reduced expenditure on maintenance and repairs of the Midnapore Canal. The budget for 1916-17 has been placed at Rs. 1,90,000 which is the minimum required to keep the canals in an efficient state of working. No expenditure is anticipated on silt clearance in the Hijili Tidal Canal. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 95,000.

59. *Irrigation Minor Works and Navigation.*—The actual expenditure during 1914-15 was Rs. 27,39,691, and the estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 22,92,000, but in view of the actuals of the first nine months of the year this estimate has been reduced to Rs. 22,50,000 in the revised estimate. The decrease is under Agricultural and Drainage works. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 20,92,000 and includes the following items :—

	Rs.
Creating a spill from the Bidyadhari river ...	1,00,000
Constructing an embankment with sluices along the south side of the Madaripur Bhil Channel	1,00,000
Dredging the Lower Kumar river at Char Maguria	50,000
Training works in the river Ganges ...	10,000
Dredging the Bhagirathi entrance	15,000
Completing the new head works of the Eden Canal	15,000
Training works in the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers by bandelling	35,000

The creation of a spill from the Bidyadhari river is a work of extreme urgency : if it be deferred for even two or three years the removal of the Calcutta Sewage outfall and the stoppage of all navigation through the Dhappa lock at an expenditure which can barely be estimated—certainly not less than a crore of rupees—will have to be faced. The Provincial share is one-half and amounts to Rs. 11,25,000 for 1915-16 and Rs. 10,46,000 for 1916-17.

60. *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 64,88,000, but in the revised estimate this has been raised to Rs. 68,00,000 on account of expenditure of the special grants sanctioned during the year for the Dacca University, Calcutta University Institute, Baker hostel, *guru*-training schools and several other projects. The estimate for 1916-17 is Rs. 52,60,000, and is distributed as shown below.

	1915-16		1916-17.
	Budget.	Revised	Budget
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Establishment ...	13,50,000	12,50,000	13,00,000
Tools and Plant, Stock and Suspense ...	50,000	1,67,000	50,000
Repairs	22,00,000	22,23,000	24,00,000
Works in progress ...	24,57,900	31,60,000	8,60,000
New works	4,30,100		6,50,000
Total ...	64,88,000	68,00,000	52,60,000

The grant for new works is distributed thus :—

Minor works and reserve—

	Rs.	Rs.
Education	50,000	
Medical	25,000	
Registration	12,000	
Police (Mufassil)...	35,000	
Calcutta Police	10,000	
Jails	30,000	
Excise	6,000	
Courts of Law	5,000	
Agriculture	8,000	
Commissioners of Divisions ...	59,000	
Residences of Local Government ...	10,000	
Archaeological works	20,000	
Public Works Department reserve ...	59,000	
		3,20,000

New major works—

Construction of drains and privies in the Alipore District Judge's Court. (This is necessary in order to comply with a requisition from the Calcutta Corporation)	21,300	
Construction of a residence for the Superintendent of Police, Burdwan, for whom no house at present exists	31,000	
Construction of a combined reserve office and a guard house in the Reserve Police lines at Bankura ...	9,000	
Construction of a new hospital for the Dinajpur Jail	10,000	
Extension of the Sadar Registration office at Burdwan	7,800	
Construction of a Sub-Registry office at Madhupur, Mymensingh ...	6,500	
Construction of a Sub-Registry office at Matla, 24-Parganas	5,900	
Construction of a Sub-Registry office at Mirserai, Chittagong ..	5,500	
Unallotted	2,00,000	
		3,30,000

61. *Civil Works in charge of Civil Department.*—The estimate for 1915-16 was Rs. 22,09,000, but in the revised estimate this has been raised to Rs. 22,56,000. The increase is due to the special grants sanctioned for digging tanks in the affected areas of Bankura and Tippera; Rs 12,017 to the Calcutta Corporation for the fringe area drainage and Rs. 7,500 for water-supply in Bankura Municipality against savings in the allotments at the disposal of the Divisional Commissioner and the District Magistrates as well as to the transfer of a portion of their grants to Education and Medical. The estimate for 1916-17 amounts to Rs. 11,40,000 and includes the following :—

	Rs.
Grant to the Calcutta Improvement Trust ...	1,50,000
Special grants at the disposal of the Divisional Commissioners	1,00,000
Special grants at the disposal of the District Magistrates	52,000
Augmentation grants	7,03,000
Grants to District funds for road works ...	67,631

Bengal Provincial Revenue.

Receipts.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance ...	1,66,25,000	3,13,30,270	3,18,11,112	2,81,31,000	2,72,60,000	2,58,90,000
ipal Heads of Revenue—						
I—Land Revenue	1,60,64,024	1,56,99,108	1,55,17,803	1,58,97,000	1,62,28,000	1,60,12,000
IV—Stamps	1,03,71,927	1,09,55,416	1,01,34,133	1,01,50,000	1,11,00,000	1,12,00,000
V—Excise	1,37,59,045	1,53,88,578	1,53,71,624	1,60,00,000	1,50,00,000	1,50,50,000
VI—Provincial Rates ...	32,02,152	1,31,340	1,70,453	1,10,000	2,25,000	1,04,000
VII—Income Tax	27,75,826	33,18,958	31,92,305	30,50,000	34,00,000	53,40,000
IX—Forests	16,00,601	16,16,111	13,91,496	14,50,000	11,25,000	11,50,000
X—Registration ...	18,23,161	20,16,144	18,12,868	19,00,000	20,00,000	20,50,000
Total ...	4,95,96,736	4,91,25,655	4,78,06,682	4,85,57,000	4,90,78,000	5,09,06,000
XII—Interest	5,00,713	4,29,999	4,14,486	5,29,000	5,36,000	6,51,000
pts by Civil Department—						
VI—Law and Justice—						
A—Courts of Law	8,14,901	8,42,811	8,60,139	9,13,000	8,40,000	8,30,000
B—Jails	7,03,353	6,71,947	8,34,256	7,60,000	9,33,000	8,02,000
VII—Police	2,39,082	1,56,684	1,77,419	1,86,000	1,57,000	1,67,000
VIII—Ports and Pilotage	17,52,191	16,76,601	15,52,988	16,20,000	14,15,000	14,25,000
IX—Education	7,77,676	8,10,953	8,17,110	8,86,000	8,77,000	9,05,000
XX—Medical	4,26,733	4,20,307	3,91,558	3,80,000	3,59,000	3,81,000
XIA—Agriculture	79,644	78,756	71,678	82,000	81,000	94,000
XIB—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	1,38,287	1,98,925	4,61,291	3,53,000	5,20,000	5,22,000
Total ...	49,31,867	48,56,987	51,99,439	51,80,000	51,85,000	51,26,000
llaneous—						
XII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ...	18,210	38,886	58,567	40,000	57,000	56,000
III—Stationery and Printing	1,20,103	1,37,862	1,49,601	1,32,000	1,16,000	1,27,000
XV—Miscellaneous	7,72,339	7,68,760	6,71,057	6,90,000	6,30,000	6,52,000
Total ...	9,10,652	9,45,508	8,79,228	8,62,000	8,03,000	8,35,000
tion—						
IX—Major Works (direct receipts) ...	1,36,959	1,23,291	1,26,981	1,20,000	1,29,000	1,29,000
X—Minor Works and Navigation—						
By Public Works Department ...	3,20,105	2,82,520	2,43,233	2,85,000	3,10,000	3,10,000
By Civil Department ...	24,925	24,421	24,725	25,000	25,000	25,000
Total ...	4,81,989	4,30,231	3,94,939	4,30,000	4,64,000	4,64,000
ngs and Roads—						
XI—Civil Works—						
By Public Works Department ...	3,85,036	4,34,258	5,62,750	4,25,000	6,00,000	4,30,000
By Civil Department ...	1,42,523	1,66,034	1,46,493	1,57,000	1,50,000	1,59,000
Total ...	5,27,559	6,00,292	7,09,243	5,82,000	7,50,000	5,89,000
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial Revenues	+1,46,73,885	+57,52,800	+68,05,878	+56,67,000	+58,15,000	+34,35,000
Total Receipts ...	7,16,53,401	6,24,41,472	6,22,09,895	6,18,07,000	6,26,31,000	6,20,04,000
Grand Total ...	8,82,78,401	9,34,71,742	40,21,007	8,99,38,000	8,98,91,000	8,78,94,000

Bengal Provincial Expenditure.

Expenditure.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
demand on the Revenues—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks	1,41,035	1,35,656	2,00,906	1,41,000	1,82,000	1,50,000
2. Assignments and Compensations ...	50,905	27,159	34,273	42,000	31,000	35,000
3. Land Revenue	32,36,128	34,40,775	33,89,970	36,66,000	35,37,000	34,52,000
5. Stamps	3,53,685	3,61,566	3,11,133	3,03,000	3,15,000	3,48,000
7. Excise	5,97,657	6,25,743	7,17,585	8,02,000	8,03,000	8,39,000
8. Provincial Rates	39,209	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
9. Income Tax	76,469	77,288	77,012	76,000	77,000	76,000
11. Forests	6,60,794	6,40,157	6,70,935	6,66,000	6,20,000	6,54,000
12. Registration	10,50,903	11,26,558	11,17,210	11,23,000	11,22,000	11,09,000
Total ...	62,09,785	64,34,902	65,19,054	68,19,000	66,87,000	66,63,000
13. Interest on Ordinary Debt ...	4,42,546	4,39,897	4,39,663	4,40,000	1,78,000	5,10,000
s and Expenses of Civil Department—						
4. General Administration	25,46,712	24,29,759	24,18,157	23,74,000	24,06,000	24,36,000
6. Law and Justice { Courts of Law ...	96,39,400	1,00,37,547	1,03,78,200	1,01,24,000	1,05,40,000	1,00,20,000
{ Jails ...	19,61,832	22,62,882	23,50,828	21,95,000	24,51,000	25,50,000
10. Police	83,99,859	94,71,081	1,03,72,545	1,05,35,000	1,10,26,000	1,11,12,000
11. Ports and Pilotage	12,16,009	14,28,377	13,78,205	14,76,000	14,05,000	13,30,000
24. Education	73,76,829	81,12,515	92,07,022	1,05,62,000	89,61,000	88,30,000
25. Medical	26,42,133	28,50,459	30,15,151	36,13,000	27,52,000	28,25,000
26. Political	38,976	32,975	18,358	30,000	24,000	23,000
27. Agriculture	7,72,137	9,36,776	10,22,161	11,17,000	11,61,000	11,29,000
31. Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	8,91,816	5,19,023	5,16,108	5,05,000	4,61,000	6,44,000
Total ...	3,54,85,703	3,80,51,391	4,06,76,738	4,25,31,000	4,11,70,000	4,08,99,000
ancous—						
1. Superannuation, etc.	29,25,688	31,00,288	31,98,648	34,29,000	31,73,000	33,71,000
4. Stationery and Printing	13,34,429	14,85,406	12,69,717	13,87,000	13,17,000	13,48,000
2. Miscellaneous	4,25,610	5,87,118	4,38,208	10,16,000	6,58,000	12,28,000
Total ...	46,85,727	51,73,112	49,06,573	58,32,000	51,48,000	59,47,000
Relief and Insurance—						
5 Reduction or avoidance of Debt ...	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
ns (Revenue Accounts)—						
1. Subsidised Companies—Land, etc. ...	-363	579	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	59,637	60,579	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
ion—						
2. Major Works—						
Working expenses	1,17,858	1,48,895	1,28,850	1,33,000	1,00,000	95,000
Interest on Debt	1,75,618	1,69,993	1,75,578	1,70,000	1,76,000	1,76,000
3. Minor Works and Navigation—						
By Public Works Department ...	7,68,153	9,62,228	13,69,817	11,46,000	11,25,000	10,46,000
By Civil Department	965	982	10,657	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total ...	10,62,594	12,82,098	16,84,932	14,50,000	14,02,000	13,18,000
ngs and Roads—						
5. Civil Works—						
By Public Works Department ...	63,21,755	76,44,385	1,00,81,625	64,88,000	68,00,000	52,60,000
„ Civil Department	26,80,384	25,74,263	23,92,099	22,09,000	22,56,000	11,40,000
Total ...	90,02,139	1,02,18,648	1,24,73,724	86,97,000	90,56,000	64,00,000
Total Charges ...	5,69,48,131	6,16,60,630	6,67,60,684	6,58,29,000	6,40,01,000	6,17,97,000
Closing Balance ...	3,13,30,270	3,18,11,112	2,72,60,323	2,41,09,000	2,58,90,000	2,60,97,000
Grand Total ...	8,82,78,401	9,34,71,742	9,40,21,007	8,99,38,000	8,98,91,000	8,78,94,000
rovincial surplus (+) or deficit (—) ...	+1,47,05,270	+4,80,842	—45,50,789	—40,22,000	—13,70,000	+2,07,000

APPENDIX A.

Bengal Provincial Receipts, in detail of minor heads.

[Figures in columns 6 and 7 are those which have been passed by the Government of India.]

The remarks in column 8, except where otherwise specially explained, refer to differences between columns 5 and 7.

1.—Land Revenue—

Heads	Accuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Gross Land Revenue	2,79,87,155	2,80,28,537	2,82,67,073	2,91,49,000	2,92,28,000	2,97,99,000	Increase in revised is due to the settlement of two estates in Bakarganj with proprietors, the sale of certain khas mahal lands to the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the capitalized value of certain lands acquired for railway projects. Budget based on the probable demands of revenue, including recoveries of suspensions.
Deduct collections from Government estates which are wholly Provincial ...	47,70,855	42,77,344	40,45,515	44,37,000	46,00,000	45,00,000	Increase in revised is due to better condition of the jute trade which has improved collections, including arrears.
Deduct recoveries of cost of maintenance of boundary marks wholly Provincial ...	.....	938	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Deduct recoveries of Survey and Settlement charges which are wholly Imperial	6,29,962	9,08,657	12,80,024	17,92,000	13,75,000	22,78,000	Decrease in revised is due to curtailment of programme in Midnapore and the non-completion of records in Rajshahi.
Deduct recoveries of cost of maintenance of boundary pillars	.....	—55	3,042	.....	3,000	4,000	
Total deductions ...	54,00,817	51,86,884	53,28,581	62,29,000	59,78,000	67,82,000	
Net amount divisible between Imperial and Provincial	2,25,86,338	2,28,41,653	2,29,38,492	2,29,20,000	2,32,50,000	2,30,17,000	
Provincial share of above	1,12,93,169	1,14,20,826	1,14,69,246	1,14,60,000	1,16,25,000	1,15,08,000	
Add collections from Government estates	47,70,855	42,77,344	40,45,515	44,37,000	46,00,000	45,00,000	
Add recoveries of cost of maintenance of boundary pillars	.....	938	3,042	.....	3,000	4,000	
Total Provincial ...	1,60,64,024	1,56,99,108	1,55,17,803	1,58,97,000	1,62,28,000	1,60,12,000	

IV—Stamps—

Sale of general stamps	63,74,686	67,52,401	54,37,637	55,00,000	66,00,000	67,00,000	
Sale of court-fee stamps	1,38,84,986	1,45,01,549	1,42,12,821	1,42,00,000	1,50,00,000	1,51,00,000	
Sale of plain paper to be used with court-fee stamps	3,10,308	3,23,073	3,07,103	3,10,000	3,15,000	3,20,000	
Duty on impressing documents ...	57,163	2,30,774	1,97,230	2,10,000	2,10,000	2,15,000	
Fines and penalties	31,923	31,707	30,723	30,000	34,000	35,000	
Miscellaneous	84,787	71,327	82,751	50,000	41,000	30,000	
Total ...	2,07,43,853	2,19,10,831	2,02,68,265	2,03,00,000	2,22,00,000	2,24,00,000	
Provincial share ...	1,03,71,927	1,09,55,416	1,01,34,133	1,01,50,000	1,11,00,000	1,12,00,000	Increase in revised is due to partial recovery of trade as well as to the opening of the Share Market which remained closed during the cold weather months of 1914-15. Budget allows for a moderate growth in expectation of some improvement in trade and business, while a decrease on account of the creation of the Patna High Court has been taken into account.

V—Excise—

License and distillery fees for the sale of liquors and drugs—							
Foreign liquors	3,44,760	3,05,450	3,11,941	3,80,600	3,20,000	3,20,000	
Indian-made liquors excised at tariff rates	2,41,811	3,44,819	3,76,240	3,50,000	3,92,000	4,35,000	Rs. 50,000 added as result of new taxation.
Country spirits—							
License fees—							
Distillery	64,11,686	69,61,029	27,26,000	67,70,000	26,75,000	26,25,000	
Outstills			48,597		12,000	.....	
Still-head duty...			38,52,964		35,75,000	37,50,000	
Miscellaneous			23,347		22,000	20,000	
Toddy revenue	4,50,393	4,75,017	4,87,029	5,25,000	4,74,000	4,80,000	
Opium and its preparations	8,96,519	12,52,622	15,70,101	10,60,000	15,00,000	15,00,000	
Other drugs, ganja, bhang, etc. ...	16,32,491	18,02,202	19,55,897	13,65,000	17,40,000	17,10,000	
Pachwai revenue	8,30,129	8,46,669	9,15,582	9,00,000	9,40,000	9,60,000	
Total ...	1,08,97,789	1,19,87,808	1,22,67,498	1,13,50,000	1,16,50,000	1,18,00,000	
Gain on sale-proceeds of excise opium ...	14,79,610	14,90,547	13,65,636	21,10,000	15,50,000	14,50,000	
Duty on ganja	14,37,379	18,72,650	16,98,764	25,00,000	17,50,000	17,50,000	
Fines, confiscations, and miscellaneous ...	34,267	37,573	42,726	40,000	50,000	50,000	
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,37,59,045	1,53,88,578	1,53,74,624	1,60,00,000	1,50,00,000	1,50,50,000	Revised based on the actuals of ten months. Decrease in revised is due to the decline in consumption owing to the economic condition of the people brought about by the war and agricultural depression.

VI—Provincial Rates—

Heads	Actuals			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs	
Public Works Cess	30,96,008	.....	57,241	.....	1,25,000	.....	The Public Works Cess has been credited to the District Boards since 1913-14. The actuals of 1914-15 and 1915-16 represent arrears which accrued prior to 1913-14 and are being credited to Government. It is anticipated that all the arrears will be collected in 1915-16 and nothing will be left to be recovered in 1916-17.
General rates for the management of private estates	1,06,144	1,31,340	1,13,222	1,10,000	1,00,000	1,04,000	Revised based on nine months actuals. The estimate for 1916-17 has been calculated at the prescribed rates on the gross income of the estates under management.
Total ...	32,02,152	1,31,340	1,70,453	1,10,000	2,25,000	1,04,000	

VIII—Income Tax—

Deductions by Government from salaries and pensions, etc.	4,86,852	5,04,822	5,19,520	5,10,000	5,26,000	6,00,000	Increase expected from new taxation.
Deductions by Government from interest on Government securities	21,192	24,052	22,497	22,000	24,000	30,000	
Deductions from salaries, etc., paid by local authorities or companies	88,660	94,440	94,698	90,000	90,000	90,000	
Income-tax on securities of local authorities or companies	1,43,568	1,55,151	1,64,820	1,60,000	1,60,000	1,60,000	
Ordinary collections	47,89,658	58,39,275	61,61,745	53,00,000	79,70,000	97,75,000	The tax of 1915-16 is assessed on the profits earned in 1914-15, and as the earnings of that year were affected by war, the collections of 1915-16 are expected to be lower. Increase in 1916-17 is for new taxation.
Penalties	13,448	11,790	11,091	10,000	18,000	15,000	
Miscellaneous	8,274	8,386	9,739	8,000	12,000	10,000	
Deduction from profits of Railway Companies	.....	.....	590	.....	.....	.....	
Total	55,51,652	66,37,916	69,84,610	61,00,000	88,00,000	1,06,80,000	
Provincial share ...	27,75,826	33,18,958	34,92,305	30,50,000	34,00,000	53,40,000	Revised based on eleven months' actuals.

IX—Forests—

Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency ...	1,07,835	17,940	1,209	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers ...	14,41,410	15,34,682	12,42,027	14,00,000	10,75,000	11,00,000	Decrease in revised is chiefly due to the congestion of the timber market on account of the war and to difficulties in the extraction of timber in the Sundarbans.
Confiscated drift and waif wood ...	1,836	5,320	8,092	3,000	4,000	4,000	
Miscellaneous	49,520	58,169	53,168	45,000	44,000	44,000	
Total ...	16,00,601	16,16,111	13,04,496	14,50,000	11,25,000	11,50,000	Revised based on eleven months' actuals.

A—Registration—

Fees for registering documents ...	16,83,575	18,54,426	16,59,643	17,30,000	18,50,000	19,00,000	Increase is attributed to the agricultural distress in certain districts and the rise of prices. Budget allows for normal increase.
Fees for copies of registered documents ...	63,164	73,930	72,535	80,000	70,000	70,000	
Miscellaneous	76,422	87,788	80,690	90,000	80,000	80,000	
Total ...	18,23,161	20,16,144	18,12,868	19,00,000	20,00,000	20,50,000	Revised based on ten months' actuals.

XII—Interest—

Class I.—Interest on advances to cultivators—							
On advances to cultivators under the Land Improvement Loans Act of 1883 ...	20,958	15,587	10,069	50,000	1,02,000	1,40,000	Increase due to large advances in Bankura, Tippera and Noakhali.
On advances to cultivators under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, XXII of 1884	36,489	16,107	19,293				
On loans to Co-operative Credit Societies	1,672	3,449	2,208	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Class II.—Interest on advances under Special Laws—							
On drainage and embankment advances ...	14,735	3,500	2,160	14,000	1,000	10,000	Based on the estimated mean balance of loan account.
Class III.—Interest on loans to landholders, etc.	1,97,580	1,65,429	1,48,019	1,60,000	1,92,000	2,08,000	Increase due to additional loan to the Maharaja Tagore.
Class IV.—Interest on loans to municipal and other public corporations (excluding Presidency Corporations)	2,00,145	2,01,426	2,07,699	2,90,000	2,16,000	2,80,000	Decrease in revised is caused by the curtailment of loans to meet urgent requirements of class I. Increase in budget is due to the anticipated realization of interest from the District Board of the 24-Parganas on the Magra Hât drainage loan; the work has now been completed.
Interest on Government securities ...	10,545	10,545	11,554	12,000	12,000	12,500	
Total ...	4,82,104	4,16,043	4,00,993	5,28,000	5,25,000	6,52,500	
Miscellaneous—							
Interest on arrears of Public Works Cess	13,361	11,053	12,970	...	10,000	...	
Other items	5,001	2,640	84	1,000	500	1,000	
Interest on zamindari embankment recoveries, etc.	247	263	439	300	500	500	
Total Miscellaneous ...	18,609	13,956	13,493	1,300	11,000	1,500	
Rounding ...	...	...	...	—300	...	...	
Grand Total ...	5,00,713	4,29,999	4,14,486	5,29,000	5,36,000	6,54,000	

XVIA—Law and Justice—Courts of Law—

Heads	Actuals			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs	
Sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property	28,892	27,509	27,168	30,000	24,000	25,000	
Court-fees realized in cash	64,124	63,893	66,350	62,000	79,000	75,000	
General fees, fines, and forfeitures ...	6,55,040	6,89,369	7,02,869	7,55,000	6,75,000	6,75,000	Decrease in budget is due to the opening of the new High Court at Patna.
Pleadership Examination fees ...	32,385	29,683	24,724	34,000	24,000	23,000	The receipts are decreasing gradually.
Miscellaneous fees and fines	5,855	4,898	3,933	4,000	4,000	4,000	
Miscellaneous	28,605	27,459	28,095	28,000	34,000	28,000	Increase in 1915-16 is special.
Total ...	8,14,901	8,42,811	8,60,139	9,13,000	8,40,000	8,30,000	Revised based on ten months' actuals.

XVIB—Jails—

Jails	1,356	839	2,363	1,000	3,000	2,000	
Jail manufactures	7,01,997	6,71,108	8,31,893	7,59,000	9,30,000	8,00,000	Increase in revised is due to larger supplies to the Military Department which may be less in 1916-17.
Total ...	7,03,353	6,71,947	8,34,256	7,60,000	9,33,000	8,02,000	Revised based on ten months' actuals.

XVII—Police—

Cash receipts under the Arms Act ...	937	777	934	1,000	500	500	
Police supplied to public departments, private companies, and persons	1,13,200	14,861	26,707	18,000	18,000	17,000	
Presidency police	89,566	1,08,456	1,10,160	1,33,000	1,01,000	1,11,000	Decrease in revised occurs chiefly under Police supplied to private individuals and receipts under the Motor Cycle Act.
Recoveries on account of village police ...	383	267	340	300	500	300	
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	16,880	15,332	13,820	14,000	12,000	12,000	
Miscellaneous	18,116	16,989	25,458	19,000	14,000	17,000	
Superannuation receipts	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Police supplied to Municipalities, cantonments and Town Funds	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,000	9,000	Represents amounts due from the Calcutta Municipal Corporation on account of guards supplied to protect the water-works.
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+100	.....	+200	
Total ...	2,39,082	1,56,684	1,77,419	1,86,000	1,57,000	1,67,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals.

Sale-proceeds of vessels and stores ...	1,578	943	119	1,000	.....	1,000	
Registration and other fees, Calcutta ...	91,486	96,323	87,325	98,000	84,000	80,000	
Pilotage receipts, Calcutta	15,22,201	14,55,086	13,08,044	13,20,000	11,55,000	11,60,000	Decrease due to the effect of the war on shipping.
Lead-money for volunteers	11,472	8,736	6,553	9,000	5,000	8,000	
Miscellaneous	1,25,454	1,15,516	1,50,937	1,92,000	1,71,000	1,76,000	The estimates for 1915-16 and 1916-17 include Rs. 72,000, being the anticipated receipts for the loan of the steamer *Guide* to the Government of India for station duty at Port Blair.
Total ...	17,52,191	16,76,604	15,52,988	16,20,009	14,15,000	14,25,000	Revised based on ten months' actuals.

XIX—Education—

Fees, Government Colleges—							
General	3,00,593	3,07,447	3,31,479	3,22,000	3,38,000	3 26,000	
Professional	49 713	61,468	59,727	63,000	60,000	60,000	
Fees, Government Schools—							
General	3,45,875	3,62,836	3,85,950	4,06,000	4,04,000	4,34,000	Increase in budget is due to the opening of the new Residential school for boys at Hastings House, Alipore.
Special	15,009	14,071	13,086	31,000	13,000	28,000	Budget includes fees from Madrassas which were formerly credited to the Mohsin Fund.
Contributions from Native States, private persons, and municipalities	14,667	13,609	14,865	16,000	16,000	15,000	
Income from endowments	111	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	
Miscellaneous	51,708	51,522	42,003	47,900	46,000	42,000	
Total ...	7,77,676	8,10,953	8,47,110	8,86,000	8,77,000	9,05,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals.

XX—Medical—

Medical School and College fees ...	86,743	96,578	1,01,274	1,06,000	1,04,000	1 05,000	
Hospital receipts (receipts from paying patients)	1,55,537	1,62,630	1,61,738	1,70,000	1,50,000	1,60,000	Budget based on the actuals of the past years.
Lunatic Asylum receipts	26,108	22,919	22,825	23,000	22,000	21,000	
Contributions (from municipalities and private persons)	1,05,181	57 599	73,560	56,000	62,000	74,000	The actuals of 1912-13 included a special contribution of Rs. 50,000 from the Indian Research Fund for jungle-clearing. Budget includes Rs. 12,000 for contribution of Rs. 1,000 a month from the Indian Research Fund Association for investigation into the causation and prevalence of diabetes in India.
Medicines sold by Civil Surgeons ...	37,293	62,864	3,534	7,000	500	500	Decrease due to the adjustment of receipts from the sale of quinine to Jails and Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments from 1914-15.
Miscellaneous	15,871	17,717	31,627	18,000	20,500	20,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	+500	
Total ...	4,26,733	4,20,307	3,94,558	3,80,000	3,59,000	3,81,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals.

XXIA—Agriculture—

Heads	Actuals. 1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15	1915-16. Sanctioned estimate.	1915-16. Revised estimate.	1916-17. Budget estimate.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs	
Botanical Garden Receipts	3,871	597	355	800	1,000	1,000	
Birch Hill Park at Darjeeling and Lebong Forest		2,130	2,354	1,800	1,000	1,900	
Other Government gardens		456	.....*	400	.....	200	
Miscellaneous		96	1,007	100	1,000	.....	
Receipts on account of experimental cultivation	42,515	44,474	40,147	46,900	48,000	60,000	Increase expected from Rangpur and other farms.
Receipts from public exhibitions and fairs ...	.....	33	8	.....	.....	.....	
Veterinary receipts	33,258	30,970	27,897	32,000	33,000	31,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—100	
Total ...	79,644	78,756	71,678	82,000	84,000	94,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

XXIB—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—

Scientific—							
Cinchona Plantations	99,509	1,70,950	4,10,258	3,00,000	4,63,000	4,70,000	Increase due to larger sales of quinine for which there is a growing demand by the public as well as by the Military and other departments.
Labour and Emigration—							
Emigration fees	24,630	17,280	6,170	8,000	8,000	5,000	Decrease of emigration to Fiji and West India Colonies due to the conversion of steamers into transports for war.
Inland labour transport fees ...	8,396	8,238	4,633	4,000	3,700	2,000	Decrease due to the abolition of recruitment by contractors and the extension to local agents of individual employers of the concessions previously granted only to approved associations.
Miscellaneous—							
Examination fees	25	237	958	600	300	500	
Miscellaneous	5,727	2,220	39,272	40,000	45,000	45,000	The fees from the registration of Joint Stock Companies are credited here since 1914-15.
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+400	.....	—500	
Total ...	1,38,287	1,98,925	4,61,291	3,53,000	5,20,000	5,22,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

XXII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation—

Contributions for pensions and gratuities—							
Contributions of officers lent to foreign service of the first and second kinds	26,451	20,453	39,412	21,000	37,500	37,000	Increase due to the levy of contributions from officers employed on the Sara-Sirajganj Railway.
Contributions of persons employed for the management of private estates under Act X of 1892	1,460	1,096	1,206	1,500	1,500	1,200	
Annuity deductions of Covenanted Civilians lent to Native States, etc., for short terms	4,663	3,282	3,709	3,200	4,000	4,000	
Refund of gratuities	72	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	
Deductons for Pilotage Pension Fund ...	15,564	14,055	14,240	14,000	14,000	14,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+200	.....	−200	
Total ...	48,210	38,886	58,567	40,000	57,000	56,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

XXIII—Stationery and Printing—

Stationery receipts	2,799	1,001	2,016	1,000	3,000	2,000	
Sale of Gazettes and other publications ...	88,111	95,236	83,627	90,000	80,000	88,000	
Other Press receipts	29,194	41,625	63,961	41,000	33,000	37,000	The actuals of 1914-15 included special receipts from the sale of waste paper and unserviceable materials from the Dacca Jail Press on its removal to Gaya
Total ...	1,20,103	1,37,862	1,49,604	1,32,000	1,16,000	1,27,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

XXV—Miscellaneous—

Recovery on account of famine expenditure	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Unclaimed deposits	6,38,026	6,01,162	5,57,187	7,80,000	5,25,000	5,50,000	This is an uncertain head. Revised based on the deposits likely to lapse at the end of the year, less the amounts likely to be refunded within the year. Budget based on the average of three years, 1913-14 to 1915-16.
Treasure-trove	500	.....	44	.....	.....	.....	
Sale-proceeds of Durbar presents ...	7,225	10,293	454	7,000	2,000	3,000	
Sale of old stores and materials ...	1,727	8,420	3,774	2,000	1,000	2,000	
Sale of lands and houses, etc. ...	2,742	13,767	457	2,000	.....	.....	
Fees for Government audits	15,392	23,576	14,718	18,000	21,000	16,000	
Rents	14,900	16,991	12,631	15,000	15,000	15,000	
Miscellaneous fees, fines, and forfeitures ..	7,098	2,961	7,709	5,000	9,000	6,000	
Contributions	702	.....	.....	500	.....	.....	
Total ...	6,88,313	6,77,170	5,96,985	6,29,500	5,73,000	5,92,000	

XXV—Miscellaneous—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	
Miscellaneous—							
Cash recoveries of service payments in previous years	.....	.....	13,531	.....		5,000	
Fees and fines of revenue courts ...	27,194	22,227	19,488	22,000		20,000	
Recoveries of law charges other than those in pauper suits	40,791	15,062	18,955	15,000		15,000	
Value of mathematical stores returned ...	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	
Sundry receipts—Circuit-house ...	299	342	.....	400		.....	
Miscellaneous receipts on account of Public Works Cess under Act IX (B.C.) of 1880	704	442	.....	.....		.....	
Miscellaneous receipts on account of the management of Wards' estates ...	107	2,970	.....	100		.....	
Sale-proceeds of trees on tea lands ...	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	
Sale of elephants	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	
Other items	10,754	50,547	22,118	22,500		20,000	
Steamer receipts, Chittagong ...	4,177	.....	.....	.....		.....	
Total Miscellaneous ...	84,026	91,590	74,092	60,000	57,000	60,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+500	.....	.....	
Grand Total ...	7,72,339	7,68,760	6,71,057	6,90,000	6,30,000	6,52,000	Revised based on actuals of the first nine months.

XXIX—Irrigation—Major Works—(Receipts)—

Midnapore Canal	2,20,782	2,10,152	2,23,591	2,03,000	2,10,000	2,10,000	
Hijili Tidal Canal	53,136	36,427	30,371	37,000	47,000	47,000	Increase in revised is the result of silt clearance; the canal is now open for through traffic and this has increased the navigation receipts.
Total ...	2,73,918	2,46,579	2,53,962	2,40,000	2,57,000	2,57,000	
Provincial share ...	1,36,959	1,23,290	1,26,981	1,20,000	1,29,000	1,29,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first ten months.

IN CHARGE OF THE CIVIL DEPARTMENT.						
Recoveries on account of lands benefited by embankments	49,850	48,842	49,450	50,000	50,000	50,000	Represents the collections in Midnapore under the contract system of zamindari embankment.
Provincial share ...	24,925	24,421	24,725	25,000	25,000	25,000	
IN CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.						
(Irrigation and Navigation Works.)						
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept—						
Orissa Coast Canal	16,346	11,484	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Calcutta and Eastern Canals ...	4,21,908	3,76,032	3,21,078	3,63,000	3,21,500	3,21,300	
Madaripur Bhil scheme	1,03,225	89,332	67,522	60,000	1,78,000	1,78,000	Increase due to the fact that the canal is now open for navigation throughout the season.
Total ...	5,41,479	4,76,848	3,88,600	4,23,000	4,99,500	4,99,300	
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept—						
Orissa Coast Canal	.....	.....	9,700	14,000	10,000	12,000	
Nadia rivers	28,986	24,832	16,371	18,000	18,000	15,200	
Gaighatta and Buxi *khals* ...	3,675	4,244	5,032	4,000	4,000	4,000	
Total ...	32,661	29,076	31,103	36,000	32,000	31,200	
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept—						
Eden Canal	36,531	32,803	19,739	34,000	35,500	39,500	
Total Irrigation and Navigation Works	6,10,671	5,38,727	4,39,442	4,93,000	5,67,000	5,70,000	

XXX—Minor Works and Navigation—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(Agricultural Works.)	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept—							
Magra Hât drainage project ...	2,480	4,277	20,478	54,000	30,000	27,000	Increase over 1914-15 expected on account of the completion of the Utterbhag work.
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept—							
Government embankments ...	27,059	22,036	26,546	23,000	23,000	23,000	
Takavi embankments under contract ...							
Total Agricultural Works ...	29,539	26,313	47,024	77,000	53,000	50,000	
Total in charge of the Public Works Department	6,40,210	5,65,040	4,86,466	5,70,000	6,20,000	6,20,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.
Provincial share ...	3,20,105	2,82,520	2,43,233	2,85,000	3,10,000	3,10,000	

XXXI—Civil Works—

In charge of the Civil Department							
Tolls on ferries	1,33,829	1,54,595	1,32,885	1,44,000	1,37,000	1,47,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals. Budget raised on account of resettlement of ferries
Cemetery receipts	1,191	1,495					
Receipts from staging bungalows and encamping grounds	3,905	5,714	4,653	.....	2,500	2,500	
Miscellaneous	3,598	4,230	8,287	12,700	10,000	8,700	
Fees on masonry graves	.....	.....	599	.....	500	700	
Sale of produce	.....	.....	69	300	.....	100	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total in charge of the Civil Department	1,42,523	1,66,034	1,46,493	1,57,000	1,50,000	1,59,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.
In Charge of the Public Works Department.							
Total gross receipts ..	3,85,036	4,34,258	5,62,750	4,25,000	6,00,000	4,30,000	Increase in revised is due to adjustment for the value of racks dismantled from the Secretariat buildings at Dacca and to the special receipts from the sale of the Lall Bazar Police buildings which have been demolished and sold. Budget based on normal receipts and follow the actuals of 1913-14. The actuals of 1914-15 included special receipts on account of the profits of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway and sale-proceeds of the old Presidency Jail buildings.

Fixed assignment under the Provincial Settlement	7,28,000	7,28,000	7,28,000	7,28,000	7,28,000	7,28,000
For repairs to Nizamat Palace, Murshidabad	.....	40,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
For Law charges on account of Bihar and Orissa	.....	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
For Collegiate and University education in Bihar and Orissa	.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
Contribution to Bihar and Orissa for training of shoals in the Ganges ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,000	12,000
For premises No. 9, Hare Street ...	.....	.....	9,550	9,000	9,000	9,000
For making certain alterations to the buildings of the Calcutta Museum for delivery of popular lectures	.....	2,454	.....	.....	.....	.....
For the transfer of work of Calcutta High Court to the new Patna High Court ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,00,000
Revenue from new taxation under Excise and Income-tax (Provincial share) transferred to Imperial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,90,000
Total ...	7,28,000	8,06,454	7,73,550	7,73,000	7,83,000	30,75,000
From Imperial to Provincial.						
Assignment in connection with further scientific researches by Dr. J. C. Bose ...	.....	.....	9,000	9,000	40,000	32,000
For Famine Relief scheme	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Grant to the Calcutta Improvement Trust ...	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000
Recurring grant for popular education ...	9,25,000	9,25,000	9,25,000	9,25,000	9,25,000	9,25,000
Recurring grant for aided English Secondary Schools	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000
Further recurring grant for education ...	.....	.....	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000
Recurring grant for education of domiciled community	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Contribution for a grant to the C. M. S. College, Calcutta	.....	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
For Improvement of Female education ...	.....	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Contribution for maintenance of Traffic Registration Office, Bhairab Bazar ...	.....	.....	1,250	1,000	1,000	1,000
Contribution for Royal Bonus	1,227	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Non-recurring grant for the construction of Hostels outside Calcutta and Dacca ...	4,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grant for the development of University works, Calcutta	4,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto (recurring)	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Assignment for Belgachia Veterinary College	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Ditto recovery of the cost of transmission of records by revised procedure introduced by the Court-fees Act ...	6,440	6,440	6,440	6,000	6,000	6,000
Grant for the amalgamation of the clerical establishment of the Art section of the Indian Museum with the School of Art ...	1,190	1,190	1,190	1,000	1,000	1,000
Provincialization of expenditure on account of salaries of officers of the Civil Veterinary Department	.....	.....	29,307	29,000	29,000	29,000
Assignment for purchase of copies of Indian Household Reference Chart and the Indian Household Emergency Chart ...	.....	.....	1,600	.....	.....	.....

Transfers between Imperial and Provincial—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13	1913-14.	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
From Imperial to Provincial—concluded.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	
For Archæological expenditure	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,000	.....	
For remission of recoveries from local bodies	.....	.....	25,881	26,000	26,000	26,000	
Non-recurring grant for the construction of hostel buildings in Calcutta	10,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Non-recurring grant for Dacca University ...	10,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Recurring ditto ditto ...	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	
Contribution from Bihar and Orissa towards pay of electrical staff utilised by it ...	7,572	7,572	7,572	8,000	8,000	8,000	
Grant for pensions of title-holders ...	2,700	2,700	2,700	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland's deputation for serological enquiry and that of Captain Shingleton Smith	17,256	46,352	25,778	35,000	35,000	35,000	
Grant of one-half of the salaries of Health Officers to be employed in municipalities	39,000	39,000	58,400	39,000	39,000	39,000	
Grant for Indian Deputy Sanitary Commissioners	.....	19,000		19,000	19,000	19,000	
Cost of supply of forms and printing work done for Bihar and Orissa Government ...	2,32,000	2,09,000	1,96,300	.....	45,000	.....	
Cost of supplying forms to Assam Administration	1,29,500	89,000	60,376	1,05,000	1,86,000	1,50,000	
Contribution from Bihar and Orissa in connection with fishery experiments ...	.....	.....	8,053	9,000	2,000	6,000	
Non-recurring assignment for sanitation ...	20,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Recurring ditto ...	.....	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	
Assignment for the Chittagong port ...	.....	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	
For adjustment of recovery claims for freights on stores from England in the office of the Agent for Government Consignments	.....	.....	6,591	11,000	11,000	11,000	
Non-recurring assignment for discretionary grants	12,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Grant for agriculture and allied objects ...	.....	1,50,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Grant for medical relief	.....	1,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Recurring assignment in connection with the remission of appropriations from cesses ...	.....	24,93,000	24,93,000	24,93,000	24,93,000	24,93,000	
Non-recurring assignment for education ...	75,00,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Recurring grant for education	.....	13,20,000	13,20,000	13,20,000	13,20,000	13,20,000	
Further grant for Dacca University ...	.....	.....	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	
Grant to the Calcutta University for hostels	.....	.....	10,00,000	.....	.....	.....	
Total Transfers from Imperial to Provincial	1,54,01,885	65,59,254	75,79,428	64,40,000	65,98,000	65,05,000	
Net Total ...	1,46,73,885	57,52,800	68,05,878	56,67,000	58,15,000	34,30,000	

APPENDIX B.

Bengal Provincial Expenditure, in detail of minor heads.

[Figures in columns 6 and 7 are those which have been passed by the Government of India.]

[The remarks in column 8, except where otherwise specially explained, refer to differences between columns 5 and 7.]

1.—Refunds and Drawbacks—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land Revenue	21,090	20,115	17,115	24,000	18,000	20,000	
Stamps	94,552	79,835	98,969	85,000	90,000	92,000	The actuals of 1912-13 included special payments of Rs. 14,000 and those of 1914-15 special refunds of Rs. 12,000.
Excise	13,504	16,843	48,042	16,000	60,000	25,000	There were special refunds of license fees for shops in 1914-15 and large refunds in Calcutta are expected in 1915-16.
Income-tax	8,367	8,654	17,245	8,000	10,000	8,000	There was a special refund to the Russian Trading Company in 1914-15
Forest	1,274	4,380	588	4,000	1,000	1,000	
Provincial Rates	747	2,840	16,726	.....	.....	1,000	
Registration	4,501	2,989	2,221	4,000	3,000	3,000	
Total ...	1,44,035	1,35,656	2,00,906	1,41,000	1,82,000	1,50,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months; budget based on the average of last three years' actuals, excluding special payments.

2.—Assignments and Compensations—

Land Revenue Compensation	.....	133	34	6	100	6	Revised includes arrear rent due to Bhutan Durbar.
Pension in lieu of resumed lands ...	927	706	699	1,000	900	1,000	
Malikana	49,978	26,320	33,540	41,500	30,000	34,000	This is a very fluctuating head. The actuals of 1912-13 included arrear payments.
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—506	.....	—6	
Total ...	50,905	27,159	34,273	42,000	31,000	35,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

3.—Land Revenue—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Charges of District Administration—	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs	
General Establishment	23,35,332	24,18,192	24,40,121	25,89,000	24,97,000	25,78,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings under Salaries. Budget includes larger grant for travelling allowance of officers and additional provision for diet and travelling allowances of witnesses.
Subdivisional Establishment	1,59,479	1,67,515	1,70,364	1,48,000	1,72,000	1,50,000	Revised raised with reference to actuals of 1914-15 and first eight months of 1915-16
Partition Establishment	—23,624	—19,274	—16,621	—15,000	9,000	—18,000	Smaller recoveries made in 1915-16.
Record-room (or copy-making) Establishment	17,790	17,943	19,689	20,000	23,000	18,000	
Survey of waste lands	8,136	1,465	1,726	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Management of private estates under Act X of 1892	22,729	23,832	23,366	23,000	21,000	22,000	
Collector's Road Cess Establishment ...	.....	.....	—6,532	—5,000	—6,000	—5,000	
Kanungo establishment	61,604	67,983	73,652	86,000	80,000	71,000	Revised based on actuals : budget based on local requirements
Total ..	25,81,448	26,77,656	27,05,785	28,48,000	27,98,000	28,18,000	
Charges on account of Land Revenue collections	13,280	17,348	10,685	24,000	14,000	15,000	Based on actuals.
Charges on account of Fishery collections ...	250	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Management of Government Estates—							
Collection of revenue	2,77,208	2,88,093	3,11,677	3,35,000	3,20,000	3,30,000	
Outlay on improvements	1,62,571	1,50,822	2,27,859	1,93,000	1,78,000	1,19,000	Decrease in revised is due to smaller outlay on improvements on account of economy in expenditure. Budget includes Rs. 50,000 for additional grant for improvements, and Rs. 50,500 for the colonization of Sundarbans in the district of Bakarganj.
Total ...	4,39,779	4,38,915	5,39,536	5,28,000	4,98,000	4,49,000	
Survey and Settlement—							
Controlling Office (survey)	—224	88	16,284	.....		.....	
Other survey operations—							
Bengal Drawing Office	8,696	52,378	—3,789	59,934		35,451	
Other operations	45,776	1,32,936	—7,604	77,411		53,159	
Minor settlement operations	49,545	74,471	64,952	.....		.....	
Other ditto	32,084	—16,008	.....	63,437		18,000	
Regrant of savings in the allotment for stationery	.....	.....	.....	1,393		.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—2,175		—1,610	
Total ...	1,35,877	2,43,865	69,843	2,00,000	1,62,000	1,00,000	Budget based on actual requirements.

Land Records—							
Superintendence	41,985	37,720	40,818	37,000	41,000	35,000	
District charges	23,509	25,201	23,323	29,000	24,000	35,000	Budget includes Rs. 9,000 for revision of Land Registration Registers with reference to the Settlement records—Rs. 4,022 for Dacca, Rs. 4,042 for Faridpur and the balance for Mymensingh.
Total ...	65,494	62,921	64,141	66,000	65,000	70,000	
GRAND TOTAL ...	32,36,128	34,40,775	33,89,970	36,66,000	35,37,000	34,52,000	
6.—Stamps—							
Superintendence—							
District Establishment	28,123	26,802	27,446	29,000	27,000	34,000	Budget includes the pay of the newly appointed Probate officer and regrant of savings in the grant for contract contingencies.
Charges for the sale of general stamps—							
Discount on sale of bills-of-exchange or hundies	6,328	7,229	2,301	7,000	4,000	5,000	
Discount on sale of other general stamps	2,03,659	2,26,742	1,82,999	2,25,000	2,16,000	2,14,000	
Total ...	2,09,982	2,33,971	1,85,300	2,32,000	2,20,000	2,19,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.
Charges on sale of court-fee stamps—							
Discount on sale of adhesive stamps ...	1,03,370	1,05,997	1,03,202	1,04,000	1,04,000	4,03,000	
Discount on sale of stamps for copies	6,117	7,480	8,154	9,500	8,000	8,000	
Establishment for sale of stamps ...	1,013	1,023	1,243	1,494	1,000	1,494	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+6	.....	+506	
Total ...	1,10,500	1,14,500	1,09,599	1,14,000	1,13,000	1,13,000	
Discount on plain paper	18,309	20,723	19,998	24,000	20,000	20,000	
Stamp paper supplied from Central Stores	3,40,446	3,27,536	2,80,912	2,10,000	2,50,000	3,10,000	Revised raised in view of the increased issues in consequence of the increase in revenue.
GRAND TOTAL ...	7,07,370	7,28,132	6,22,265	6,05,000	6,30,000	6,96,000	
Provincial share ...	3,53,685	3,61,566	3,11,133	3,03,000	3,15,000	3,48,000	
7.—Excise—							
Superintendence	80,416	1,01,530	1,17,886	1,20,000	1,21,000	1,21,000	Increase due to the amalgamation with the Salt Department.
Presidency Establishment—							
Calcutta Collectorate (office) ...	48,494	46,626	45,669	46,320	43,500	48,572	
Inspection and Prevention ...	22,409	22,725	25,052	23,472	39,000	31,104	
Allowances and Contingencies ...	28,322	25,369	25,111	27,241	36,500	37,681	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—33	.....	—337	
Total ...	99,225	94,720	95,832	97,000	1,19,000	1,17,000	

7.—*Excise*—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals			1915-16		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13	1913-14.	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate	Budget estimate	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	
District Executive Establishment—							
Salar Establishment	*3 897	76 255	89.196	2,39 136	1,30,000	1,51,969	Budget includes full provision for the revised establishment
Inspection and Prevention ...	1,36,035	1,32 907	2,27,539	2,20,061	2,80,000	3,89,244	
Allowances, etc.	87,553	98,383	1,36,162	1 30097	1,25,000	1,42,436	
Bonus	53	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—354	.....	—80,649	
Total ...	2,97,538	3 07,545	4,52,897	5,89,000	5,35,000	6,03,000	
Distilleries—							
Presidency Establishment	13 690	11,335	12,419	13,000	12 500	9,000	
District Establishment	1,06,788	1,10,613	2,36,140	2,21,000	2,15,500	1,89,000	(a) Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months. Under present arrangements the expenditure of the two departments, Excise and Salt, is debited to this head in the first instance and a fixed sum of 2 lakhs will be transferred to the head "5—Salt" at the end of the year.
Total ..	1,20,478	1,21,948	2,48,559	2,34,000	2,28,000	1 98,000	
Deduct—Fixed share chargeable to "5—Salt"	.....	.....	1,97 589	2,38,000	2,00,000	2,00 000	
Provincial share ...	5,97,657	6 25,743	7,17,585	8,02,000	(a) 8,03,000	8,39,000	

8.—*Provincial Rates*—

Collection of rates and cesses	62,050	62,898					The expenditure is debited to the head "3—Land Revenue—Charges of District Administration" in the first instance and ultimately recovered from the District Boards, the recoveries including pension contributions taken in reduction of expenditure under that head.
Valuation and revaluation	84 320	91 104					
Bonus	245	.....					
Total ...	1 46 615	1,54 002					
Deduct—							
Proportion debitable to Local for cost of road cess collection	1 07 406	1,54,002					
Proportion debitable to Local for revaluation							
One-third share of recoveries on account of collection of arrear cesses ...							
Contribution for pension of the Cess collecting Establishment ...							
	1 07,406	1 54 002					
Total ...	39 209	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	

10.—Income Tax—

Calcutta Establishment	91,378	91,734	90,257	88,000	90,000	89,000	Budget includes large provision for Warrant establishment.
District ditto	61,559	62,843	63,828	64,000	64,000	63,000	No provision has been made for temporary establishment.
Total ...	1,52,937	1,54,577	1,54,085	1,52,000	1,54,000	1,52,000	Increase in revised is due to payment of leave allowances
Provincial share ...	76,469	77,288	77,042	76,000	77,000	76,000	Budget provides for the sanctioned scale of establishment.

11.—Forests—

A.—Conservancy and Works.							
I.—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency	36,767	195	904	700	1,000	600	
II.—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers and purchasers	1,12,109	1,15,813	1,24,426	1,31,650	1,20,000	1,25,000	
III.—Confiscated drift and waif wood ...	1,370	667	828	1,600	1,000	1,400	
V.—Rent of leased forests and payment to shareholders in forests managed by Government	1,096	360	781	1,000	200	1,000	
VI.—Live-stock, stores, tools and plant ...	18,192	27,465	25,305	14,200	12,000	19,000	Budget includes Rs. 4,000 for the purchase of an elephant for the Chittagong Hill Tracts to replace a casualty.
VII.—Communications and Buildings ...	1,14,704	1,03,631	1,13,262	95,650	77,000	1,00,000	Decrease in revised is due to curtailment of expenditure.
VIII.—Demarcation, improvement and extension of forests	44,545	49,699	53,134	60,000	53,000	55,000	
IX.—Miscellaneous	3,309	3,884	4,924	5,000	5,800	5,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+200	.....	.....	
Total A.—Conservancy and Works ...	3,32,083	3,01,514	3,23,564	3,10,000	2,70,000	3,07,000	
B.—Establishment.							
I.—Salaries	2,49,895	2,58,997	2,58,389	2,70,000	2,59,000	2,59,000	Decrease due to provision for a 3rd grade Conservator and to the deputation of higher grade officers to other Provinces.
II.—Allowances	64,878	70,132	74,004	70,500	76,000	73,000	Revised includes charges for grain allowance by transfer from 32—Miscellaneous.
III.—Contingencies	13,938	14,474	13,978	14,883	15,000	15,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+617	.....	....	
Total B.—Establishment ...	3,28,711	3,38,643	3,47,371	3,56,000	3,50,000	3,47,000	
Total A and B ...	6,60,794	6,40,157	6,70,935	6,66,000	6,20,000	6,54,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

12.—Registration—

Heads	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	
Superintendence	70,135	79,069	75,189	73,000	75,000	72,000	Increase in revised is due to the privilege leave allowance of the Inspector-General.
District Charges—							
Calcutta	30,756	32,881	27,861	26,000	28,700	26,500	Increase in revised is under salaries.
District Sub-Registrars and Sub-Registrars	9,49,109	10,13,825	10,13,878	10,23,000	10,18,300	10,10,000	Decrease in revised is on account of savings under Salaries.
Ex-officio Sub-Registrars	903	783	282	1,000	.....	500	
Total District Charges ...	9,80,768	10,47,489	10,42,021	10,50,000	10,47,000	10,37,000	
Grand Total ...	10,50,903	11,26,558	11,17,210	11,23,000	11,22,000	11,09,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

13.—Interest on Ordinary Debt—

Interest on Provincial Advance and Loan Account	4,42,546	4,39,897	4,39,663	4,40,999	4,78,000	5,10,000	Both the revised and the budget are based on the estimated mean outstanding balances of loans.

18—General Administration—

Salary of the Governor	1,29,096	1,20,000	1,20,000	1,20,000	1,20,000	1,20,000	
Staff and household of the Governor ...	4,22,279	3,06,916	3,65,213	3,00,000	3,30,000	3,35,000	Increase in revised is due to debit of charges for rates and taxes for which no provision was made in the budget. Budget includes Rs. 10,000 on account of regrant of savings in the revised grant for furniture and also the provision for rates and taxes
Tour and establishment grant	1,48,628	1,25,885	71,640	73,000	70,000	73,000	
Delhi Coronation Durbar	22,146	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Tour expenses	.....	.....	44,065	60,000	45,000	60,000	
Legislative Department	1,03,961	1,46,576	1,31,424	1,33,000	1,17,000	1,31,000	
Civil Secretariat	7,61,442	7,94,853	8,47,883	8,22,000	8,66,000	8,68,000	Increase in revised is due to larger expenditure for officers on special duty, including Press Censor. Budget includes provision for the salary, establishment and other charges of the Press Censor and larger grant for officers on special duty.
Executive Council	2,15,680	2,25,735	2,23,184	2,19,000	2,18,000	2,19,000	
Board of Revenue	2,47,992	2,04,400	1,09,425	1,36,000	1,39,000	1,34,000	
Commissioners	3,93,518	4,08,974	4,01,005	4,04,000	3,95,000	3,89,000	
Civil offices of Account and Audit ...	1,01,970	96,420	1,04,318	1,07,000	1,06,000	1,07,000	
Total ...	25,46,712	24,29,759	24,18,157	23,74,000	24,00,000	24,36,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

19A—Courts of Law—

Heads	Appeals			1915-16		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
High Court—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Judges	9,19,575	9,28,928	9,34,018	9,40,000	9,08,000	7,00,000	Provision has been made for the Chief Justice and 13 judges.
Original Side	3,19,711	3,28,899	3,13,186	3,31,000	3,23,500	3,44,000	Decrease in revised is owing to the appointment of Registrar of Insolvency being vacant for some time. Budget includes Rs. 12,000 for the supply of typewritten transcripts of the evidence of witnesses given in one court.
Appellate Side	3,94,438	4,07,344	4,14,413	4,29,000	4,26,500	3,52,000	Decrease in budget is due to the transfer of a portion of the work to the new Patna High Court.
Reporters	24,878	24,883	24,963	25,000	25,000	22,000	
Bonus	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Lump deduction	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—12,300	
Total ...	16,58,610	16,90,054	16,86,580	17,25,000	16,83,000	14,06,000	
Law Officers—							
English Law Officers	1,29,837	1,31,739	1,28,940	1,33,000	1,33,000	1,33,000	
Legal Remembrancer and High Court Pleaders	5,89,666	3,99,690	4,63,150	3,82,000	4,00,000	4,18,000	Budget includes Rs. 35,000 for the Additional Legal Remembrancer and his establishment, etc.
Mufassal Establishment	2,60,137	4,61,414	5,60,226	3,26,000	5,78,000	3,82,000	Increase in revised is for larger payment of lawyers' fees in connection with political cases. Budget includes larger grant for law charges.
Bonus	—84	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	9,79,556	9,92,843	11,52,316	8,41,000	11,11,000	9,33,000	
Coroner's Court	7,307	7,913	7,892	8,000	8,000	8,000	
Presidency Magistrates—							
Calcutta Police Court	1,19,731	1,35,561	1,47,996	1,44,000	1,49,000	1,41,000	
Municipal Magistrate's Court ...	7,974	4,396	8,166	8,000	8,000	8,000	
Court for juvenile offenders and house of detention	.....	.....	8,799	10,000	8,000	10,500	
Bonus	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—500	
Total ...	1,27,713	1,39,957	1,64,961	1,62,000	1,65,000	1,59,000	

Civil and Sessions Courts—							
District and Sessions Judges ...	...	10 74,868	11,00 570	11,39 736	11,01,000	12,14,000	12,22,000	Increase in revised is due to the appointment of additional District and Sessions Judges and to charges in connection with the Defence of India Act Budget provides for 4 permanent additional Judges sanctioned by the Secretary of State and no provision for temporary officers.
Subordinate Judges	...	4,41 166	4 77,176	5,31,138	5,17,250	5,31,000	4,94,414	Increase in revised is on account of additional temporary Subordinate Judges sanctioned during the year.
Mufassal Small Cause Courts	...	17 756	18,364	18,490	17,328	.....	.....	Transferred to Courts of Small Causes.
Munsifs	...	15,48,738	16 12 638	16,31,501	15,80,250	16 24 000	15,72 314	Increase in revised is on account of additional temporary Munsifs sanctioned during the year.
Allowances	...	42,461	54,892	59,654	37 000	61,000	58,000	Increase in revised is due to the debit of grain allowance by transfer from "32—Miscellaneous"
Supplies and Services ...	...	4,55,719	4,85,216	4,84,600	4 90,705	4,90,000	5 03,482	
Contingencies	...	1,64,614	1,75,382	1,54,004	1,54 534	1,58,000	1,54,231	
Process-serving Establishment	...	7,30,720	7,81,543	7,71,745	7,51 044	7,42,000	7,48,000	
Charges for the defence of India Act	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	80,000	1,00,000	
For rounding	...	.....	.....	.....	—111	....	—441	
Total	...	44,76,042	47,05 781	47,91,558	46 49,000	49,00 000	48,22,000	
Courts of Small Causes ...	...	1,61,324	1,91,373	1,98,780	1,96 000	2,46,000	2,66,000	Increase due to the transfer of the charges for the Mufassal Small Causes Courts to this head.
Criminal Courts—							
General Establishment ...	...	19,82,411	20,48,302	21,13 305	22,08,000	21,56,000	21,76,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings under Salaries
Subdivisional Establishment ...	...	1 59,479	1 67 515	1,70,364	1,48,000	1,72 000	1,50,000	
Revision of chowkidari panchayats	...	2,356	6,284	5,548	71,900	6,000	6 000	
Police Case Hospitals ...	...	.....	... ..	3 849	5 000	4,000	5 000	
Rewards	...	.....	... ..	479	9,000	1,000	1,000	
For rounding	...	.....	.....	.... .	—1 0	.....	.....	
Total	...	21,44,246	22,22,101	22,93 545	24,42 000	23,39,000	24,38,000	
Pleadership Examination charges	...	16 979	16 952	15,777	21,000	18,500	18 000	
Refunds	...	37 021	70 573	71,791	80 000	70 000	70,000	
Total	...	98 39,400	1,00 37 547	1 03,78 200	1,01 24 000	1 05,40 000	1 00 20,000	Revised has for the actuals of the first nine months

1913—Jails—

Heads.	Actuals			1915-16		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate	Budget estimate	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Superintendence	65,797	59,569	61,016	63,000	62,500	61,000	
Establishments—							
Superintendents and Jailors	2,03,542	2,02,249	2,09,011	1,79,000	1,83,000	1,81,000	
Medical	29,910	33,847	31,663	33,000	30,000	34,500	
Clerical, Educational and Mechanical ...	10,770	12,658	13,581	14,000	13,000	13,000	
Warders	2,09,397	2,17,091	2,21,171	2,50,000	2,30,500	2,68,500	Budget includes provision for revision of establishment. Decrease in revised is for non-utilization of the provision for revision as the sanction has not yet come.
Menial and others	3,569	2,773	2,925	1,000	2,000	1,000	
Dietary charges	4,77,081	6,62,895	6,49,855	6,25,000	7,07,000	7,70,000	Increase both in revised and budget is with reference to actuals, and increase in the number of prisoners.
Hospital charges	71,676	79,015	68,662	65,000	71,000	75,000	
Clothing and bedding of prisoners ...	54,479	49,995	75,454	51,000	90,000	74,000	Ditto ditto ditto
Sanitation charges	22,879	23,694	23,544	26,000	26,000	34,000	
Charges for moving prisoners	35,943	38,334	39,951	46,000	46,000	50,000	
Miscellaneous services and supplies ...	1,01,286	1,23,899	1,02,796	1,14,000	1,21,000	1,39,000	Budget includes Rs. 25,000 for temporary accommodation required in the several Jails to meet overcrowded conditions.
Allowances	12,680	19,047	21,159	11,000	21,000	11,000	Increase in revised is due to debit of grain allowance by transfer from "32—Miscellaneous."
Contingent charges	82,951	87,408	43,603	56,000	45,000	48,000	
Extraordinary charges for live-stock, tools and plant	18,122	23,288	23,280	21,000	25,500	25,000	
Charges for police custody	18,235	17,538	18,480	24,000	24,000	24,000	
Bonus	—123	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Charges for the distribution of quinine by the Juvenile Jail	4,207	3,193	16,089	5,000	32,500	16,000	
Total Jails ...	14,17,401	16,50,698	16,22,241	15,84,000	17,30,000	18,24,000	
Jail manufactures	5,44,013	6,06,184	7,26,334	6,09,000	7,00,000	7,25,000	Increase in revised is due to larger outlay on raw materials and European stores. Budget follows the actuals of 1914-15.
Refunds	418	.....	2,253	2,000	1,000	1,000	
Total ...	19,61,832	22,62,882	23,50,828	21,95,000	24,31,000	25,50,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

Presidency Police—							
Police Commissioner (Superintendence) ...	1,38,337	1,62,120	1,55,032	1,56,000	1,48,000	1,54,000	
Calcutta Police	12,15,083	13,36,930	14,69,952	14,33,950	15,46,000	15,00,000	Increase in revised is due to enhancement of pay of constabl and head-constables and for the adjustment of the charg for grain allowance by transfer from "32—Miscellaneous."
Hospital charges	32,258	38,656	33,470	39,000	30,000	40,000	
Dock Police	.....	.....	7,490	.....	13,000	.....	
Special Police	35,522	37,866	21,082	33,102	32,000	31,000	
Police Training School	.....	.....	17,479	27,000	23,000	30,000	
Cattle-pounds	2,887	3,466	3,053	3,638	4,000	4,000	
River Police	20,674	13,790	21,602	30,000	20,000	27,000	
Police dead-house	2,093	2,262	2,112	2,700	3,000	4,800	
Bonus	2,256	—5	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Lump provision	.....	.....	.....	20,000	.....	56,206	Budget includes Rs. 25,000 for the third Company of Armed Police and Rs. 26,260 for additional European Police for trading quarters and Rs. 5,646 for supply of arms to Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Calcutta Police to guard against armed dacoits.
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—400	.....	—706	
Total ...	14,49,110	15,95,085	17,42,163	17,45,000	18,29,000	18,47,000	
Superintendence	2,22,171	3,15,607	3,07,944	2,34,000	3,04,000	2,97,000	Increase due to the appointment of an additional Deputy Inspector-General and a second personal assistant, officer on special duty, and additional staff.
District Police Force—							
Salaries	5,58,526	5,93,728	6,13,286	6,28,000	6,42,000	6,25,000	
Police Force	30,60,000	32,70,774	36,09,476	39,00,000	39,87,000	40,50,000	
Training Schools	1,23,111	1,31,658	1,39,281	1,45,000	1,63,000	1,80,000	
Establishment	1,99,662	2,14,850	2,07,882	2,07,000	2,03,000	2,72,000	Increase due to provision of boat establishment and fixed boat hire in the Eastern Bengal districts.
Hospital charges	46,293	50,849	51,978	54,000	47,000	58,000	
Allowances	5,30,455	6,84,616	8,10,849	7,00,000	9,12,000	7,97,000	Increase in revised is due to larger expenditure on travelling charges and adjustment of charges for grain allowance. Budget allows larger grant for travelling allowances with reference to actuals.
Supplies and Services	6,42,299	8,14,465	9,45,393	6,56,000	8,28,000	7,22,000	Budget allows larger grant for ordnance stores, purchase of arms, cost of telephone lines, Law charges, clothing, rewards and cost of railway warrants
Contingencies	2,41,040	3,49,411	3,92,483	2,81,000	4,06,000	3,23,000	Budget includes Rs. 37,856 for temporary boat establishment.
Other Police	2,94,402	3,54,718	3,54,213	2,91,000	2,91,000	3,30,000	Budget includes Rs. 50,000 for the reorganization of River Police.

20—*Police*—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	
District Police Force—*concluded.*							
Bonus	—435	—93	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Lump provision for additional force and Police reforms	.....	.....	.....	5,25,000	1,31,000	3,64,000	Buildings for Subordinate Police (Rs. 1,58,670), and other urgent requirements.
Total ...	56,96,250	64,64,986	71,24,841	73,87,000	76,10,000	77,01,000	
Village Police	19,874	34,020	5,907	8,000	27,000	6,000	Increase in revised is due to grant to meet the remission of chaukidari tax in distressed tracts.
Criminal Investigation Department ...	4,06,163	4,78,209	5,39,973	5,31,000	5,68,000	5,94,000	Budget provides larger grant for travelling allowances, rewards and Secret Service money, and miscellaneous charges.
Special Police—							
Assam Frontier Police	291	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	
Bengal Military Police	2,51,826	2,02,851	2,50,015	2,50,000	2,73,000	2,65,000	Budget includes larger grant for clothing and cost of railway warrants for recruitment.
Frontier Police, Chittagong	42,841	43,355	46,012	45,000	44,500	47,000	
Upper Burma Police charges ...	6,032	6,542	6,465	6,400	6,500	6,700	
Bonus	63	.....	.....	—400	.....	+300	
Total ...	3,01,053	2,52,748	3,02,492	3,01,000	3,24,000	3,19,000	
Railway Police—							
Jorhat State Railway Police	1,557	1,547	1,638	1,634	2,000	1,852	
Debru-Sadiya Railway Police ...	2,537	1,052	5,447	491	6,000	3,013	
Dacca-Mymensingh Railway Police ...	3,599	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
East Indian Railway Police	79,901	92,243	94,403	75,000	97,000	80,000	
Eastern System Railway Police ...	1,73,252	2,00,883	2,17,797	2,14,000	2,22,000	2,25,000	Budget includes larger grant for rent, rates and taxes.
Bengal and North-Western and Tirhut State Railway Police	32	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	

Bengal-Nagpur Railway	22,516	15,784	12,317	20,000	14,000	17,000	
Cooch-Behar Police ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Assam-Bengal Railway Police	18,557	14,705	14,630	14,034	20,000	18,642	
Bonus	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—159	.....	—507	
Total ...	3,01,972	3,26,214	3,46,232	3,25,000	3,60,000	3,45,000	
Cattle-pounds	134	236	132	250	500	250	
Refunds	3,132	3,976	2,861	3,750	3,500	3,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—250	
GRAND TOTAL ...	83,99,859	94,71,081	1,03,72,545	1,05,35,000	1,10,26,000	1,11,12,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

21—*Ports and Pilotage*—

Salaries and allowances of officers and men afloat	1,24,693	1,07,006	1,04,765	1,18,000	1,36,000	1,36,000	Increase due to extra expenses for manning the steamer *Guide* up to seagoing standard for employment on station duty at Port Blair.
Victualling of officers and men afloat ...	27,771	29,599	30,673	32,000	40,000	34,000	Increase in revised is due to rise in the price of food-stuffs
Purchase of marine stores and coal for the building, repairs and outfit of ships and vessels	1,22,569	1,19,825	1,70,177	1,40,000	1,48,000	1,31,000	
Purchase and hire of ships and vessels ...	16,850	25,053	110	20,000	.....	.....	The charge is now adjusted against State yacht establishment shown below
Pilotage and Pilot establishment ...	8,18,545	7,97,579	7,24,703	8,21,500	7,28,000	6,66,500	Decrease is due to the dislocation of seaborne trade which has reduced the earnings of pilots.
Marine establishment	73,763	1,43,872	1,55,538	1,43,000	1,31,000	1,37,000	Decrease in revised is due to the post of the Deputy Port Officer remaining vacant for some time and also to saving on account of house allowance of the Engineer and Ship-wright-Surveyor.
Subsidies to Steamboat Companies ...	8,494	2,575	2,250	3,320	2,300	3,320	
Miscellaneous	29,329	1,87,163	1,65,245	1,81,000	1,80,000	1,85,000	
State yacht establishment	9,906	10,572	19,039	12,000	36,000	32,000	Increase is due to adjustment under this head of the charges for hire of vessels in connection with His Excellency's tour.
Refunds	4,089	5,130	5,705	5,000	3,700	5,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+180	.....	+180	
Total ...	12,16,009	14,28,377	13,78,205	14,76,000	14,05,000	13,39,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

22—*Education*—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate	Budget estimate	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	
Calcutta University	5,15,000	1,18,500	2,73,960	1,15,000	1,15,000	1,17,000	The actuals of 1914-15 included a special payment of Rs. 1,59,000.
Direction	1,78,080	1,51,032	1,62,563	1,58,000	1,68,000	1,52,000	
Inspection—							
Inspector of European schools ...	18,162	11,255	12,821	13,000	12,000	13,000	
Inspectors of other schools	7,38,617	7,41,347	8,90,109	7,54,000	8,78,000	8,49,000	Increase due to increase of salaries and allowances.
Inspector of hostels and students' messes	.....	5,204	4,026	4,000	5,500	5,000	
Inspector of technical schools and of industries	25,709	25,402	26,980	29,000	27,500	28,000	
Bonus	110	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	7,82,598	7,83,208	9,33,936	8,00,000	9,23,000	8,95,000	
Government Colleges—General—							
English Colleges—							
Arts Colleges for boys	7,45,673	7,43,075	8,77,858	7,85,000	8,58,000	8,18,000	Increase due to increase of salaries.
Arts Colleges for girls	30,655	34,660	43,831	40,000	40,000	45,000	Increase due to the appointment of a temporary lecturer.
Eden Hindu Hostel	30,391	35,909	32,929	40,000	34,000	33,000	
Oriental Colleges—							
Sanskrit College	33,425	31,738	40,815	32,000	36,000	35,000	Increase due to increase of salaries.
Elliott Madrassa and other attached hostels	10,065	10,551	8,682	10,000	.....	.....	
Cost of maintaining messes attached to Government Colleges in Calcutta ...	.....	.....	.....	5,808	.....	5,808	
Deduct—Probable savings ...	.....	.....	.....	—808	.....	—808	
Total ...	8,50,209	8,55,924	10,04,105	9,12,000	9,68,000	9,36,000	

Government Colleges, Professional—							
Law Colleges	15,185	18,353	19,206	16,500	19,000	19,000	Budget includes Rs. 4,000 for fees to professors at Chittagong and Rajshahi Colleges for law lectures.
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, Howrah	3,20,920	2,62,146	2,66,026	2,60,000	2,82,000	2,62,000	
Mining Instruction in the coalfields ...	5,658	5,190	4,293	5,000	5,000	7,607	
Training Colleges for teachers ...	58,812	71,635	71,587	73,000	72,000	73,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—500	.....	+393	
Total ...	4,00,575	3,57,324	3,61,112	3,54,000	3,78,000	3,62,000	
Government Schools, General—							
District School Committees	306	443	374	500	400	500	
Secondary Schools—							
For boys—							
High Schools	5,00,867	5,21,888	5,89,148	5,20,000	5,77,000	6,10,000	Increase due to provision for the new residential school at Hastings House, Alipore.
Middle English Schools	88,940	1,08,478	1,15,785	1,14,000	1,14,000	1,28,000	Increase due to increase of salaries and larger grant for boarding charges.
Middle Vernacular Schools	3,169	3,163	2,800	3,000	3,000	3,000	
For girls—							
High Schools	80,594	1,06,467	1,06,927	1,03,000	1,08,000	1,05,000	Increase due to larger grant for rents, rates and taxes according to actual requirements.
Middle English Schools	59,426	71,483	89,901	83,000	90,000	92,000	Increase due to increase of salaries and larger grant for boarding charges
Middle Vernacular Schools	7,713	5,250	6,631	5,000	4,600	4,000	
Female Education Committee ...	.....	250	121	300	.....	.....	
Primary Schools—							
For boys—							
Upper Primary Schools	4,221	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Lower Primary Schools	.....	1,296	1,922	2,800	2,000	2,000	
For girls—							
Upper Primary Schools	23,036	4,546	3,707	7,000	4,000	4,000	
Lower Primary Schools	.....	18,100	18,055	19,000	18,000	16,000	

22—*Education*—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Circle School grant	40,022	41,119	42,336	40,000	42,000	40,000	
Payment in support of local schools under District Boards	11,64,506	13,88,064	11,34,037	2,88,960	8,35,000	2,91,198	Revised includes grants sanctioned by transfer from Imperial grants
Bonus	—288	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Zenana classes in Eastern Bengal ...	8,813	10,864	12,585	11,000	14,000	13,000	Increase due to provision for two governesses for Dinajpur and Pabna.
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—560	.....	—698	
Total ...	19,81,325	22,81,411	21,25,229	11,97,000	18,12,000	13,08,000	
Government Schools, Special—							
Training Schools—							
For Masters—							
Normal Schools	87,136	84,120	96,020	90,000	92,000	90,000	
Guru-Training Schools	2,14,067	2,13,069	2,48,112	2,16,000	3,00,000	2,50,000	Increase due to larger provision of stipends to pupils.
For Mistresses—							
Training Schools	25,474	24,234	22,162	28,000	28,000	32,000	Increase due to larger grant for boarding charges and office expenses.
Calcutta School of Art	26,830	35,252	43,641	41,000	43,000	43,000	
Government Art Gallery	9,840	9,584	9,690	9,000	11,000	7,500	
Engineering and Survey Schools ...	53,123	57,116	60,482	56,000	57,000	58,000	Increase due to increase of salaries.
Technical and Industrial Schools ...	54,530	55,662	70,582	60,000	61,000	65,000	Increase due to larger grant for stipends and scholarships according to actual requirements.
Commercial Schools	24,370	22,642	30,342	24,000	27,000	30,000	Increase due to the appointment of a Professor of Accountancy.
Madrassas	73,590	74,531	93,995	75,000	1,03,000	92,000	Increase due to larger grants to madrassas to relieve the Mohsin Fund which cannot now bear the charges.

Ellot Madrassa and other attached hostels...	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,500	10,00	
Reformatory School	—20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Other miscellaneous schools	1,379	2,308	2,251	5,000	2,300	3,000	
Agricultural classes and agricultural gardens	.....	303	111	2,500	200	500	
Bonus ...	114	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—500	.....	.....	
Total ...	5,98,433	5,78,827	6,77,468	6,09,000	7,39,000	6,81,000	
Grants-in-aid	17,24,594	20,99,939	31,11,918	15,06,000	20,75,000	14,80,000	Revised includes grants sanctioned by transfer from the Imperial grants.
Scholarships	2,24,400	2,41,638	2,41,616	2,44,000	2,37,000	2,44,000	
Miscellaneous	1,20,518	6,42,200	3,13,636	1,44,000	1,80,000	1,91,600	Revised includes charges sanctioned from Imperial grants for boarding hostel expenses. Budget includes the pay and other expenses of Dr. J. C. Bose.
Lump provision for improving popular education	.....	.....	.....	9,25,000	1,32,000	9,25,000	
Lump provision for secondary education ...	.....	.....	.....	1,50,000	.....	1,50,000	
Lump provision for female education (recurring)	.....	.....	.....	30,000	27,000	30,000	
Dacca University and hostels (non-recurring)	.....	.....	.....	1,00,000	.....	.....	
Ditto ditto (recurring) ...	.....	.....	.....	45,000	.....	45,000	
Calcutta University for hostels	.....	.....	.....	10,00,000	2,50,000	50,000 2,23,000	
Expenditure from the non-recurring grant of 75 lakhs	.....	.....	.....	8,00,000	11,000	71,000	
Expenditure of the recurring grant ...	.....	.....	.....	13,20,000	2,00,000	8,20,000	
Ditto of further grant	.....	.....	.....	1,50,000	44,000	1,50,000	
Refunds	1,097	2,512	1,479	3,000	2,000	2,000	
Total ...	73,76,829	81,12,515	92,07,022	1,05,62,000	89,61,000	88,30,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

24—Medical—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	
Medical establishment—							
Superintendence	71,388	69,060	68,927	81,000	72,000	72,000	Decrease due to the non-appointment of an Indian Medical Service officer as Personal Assistant.
District Medical establishment ...	4,32,112	4,20,714	4,11,713	3,91,000	3,89,000	3,73,000	Decrease due to the deputation of several Indian Medical Service officers to military duty.
Reserve Medical Officers and Subordinates	9,600	11,671	17,961	12,000	11,000	20,000	
Bonus	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	5,13,109	5,01,445	4,97,701	4,84,000	4,72,000	4,65,000	
Hospitals and Dispensaries—							
Presidency Hospitals and Dispensaries—							
Medical College Hospital	3,64,393	4,09,790	3,74,160	3,59,000	3,74,000	3,64,000	Budget provides for larger grant for medical stores locally purchased.
General Hospital	2,43,527	2,51,634	2,49,533	2,41,000	2,39,000	2,40,000	
Campbell Hospital	1,25,706	1,41,572	1,47,292	1,41,000	1,52,000	1,47,000	Budget provides for larger grant for medical stores, electric current, and rents, rates and taxes.
Albert Victor Asylum for Lepers ...	37,707	36,213	34,167	35,000	38,000	35,000	
Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	1,08,402	1,02,337	1,13,423	93,000	1,12,000	1,12,000	Budget provides for larger grant for salaries, medical stores, and rents, rates and taxes, and also for revision of nursing establishment of the Sambhu Nath Pundit Hospital.
Grants to Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	2,12,209	3,61,363	4,18,946	1,35,000	1,52,000	1,52,000	Budget includes Rs. 22,465 for grants to dispensaries for the discontinuance of the privilege of obtaining alcoholic preparations and tinctures at special reduced rates from Messrs. Smith Stanistreet & Co., on account of supply by Government to the latter of duty-free spirits.
Medical charges in connection with the Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	1,279	813	590	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Bonus	—16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	10,93,207	13,03,722	13,38,111	10,05,000	10,68,000	10,51,000	
Sanitation and Vaccination	3,60,086	3,13,063	3,88,447	3,07,000	2,88,000	2,73,000	Decrease due to the deputation of officers to military duty.

Grants for medical purposes—						
Expenses during the prevalence of plague	13,844	13,743	13,838	15,080	14,000	16,228	
Contribution to Lady Minto's Nursing Association	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Expenses during the prevalence of epidemics	1,249	555	1,851	1,000	1,700	1,700	
Value of medical stores supplied to charitable institutions	1,00 /	560	300	500	300	500	
Exchange compensation allowance ...	84	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+ 420	.....	—428	
Total grants for medical purposes ...	16,177	14,798	15,789	17,000	16,000	18,000	
Medical Schools and Colleges—							
Medical Colleges	2,97,843	3,44,959	3,32,953	3,49,000	3,35,000	3,51,000	
Medical Schools	1,13,503	1,22,813	1,23,257	1,30,000	1,26,000	1,37,000	Increase is under salaries.
Total ...	4,11,346	4,67,772	4,56,210	4,79,000	4,61,000	4,88,000	
Lunatic Asylums	1,65,754	1,80,677	1,83,919	1,84,000	1,92,000	1,92,000	Budget includes larger grant for diet and clothing, and rents, rates and taxes.
Special Hospitals	10,601	10,026	12,393	10,000	11,000	11,000	
Chemical Examiner	58,851	40,240	53,737	59,000	41,000	42,000	Decrease due to the permanent Chemical Examiner being on military duty.
Refunds	13,002	18,016	68,847	15,000	18,000	21,000	The actuals of 1914-15 included Rs. 50,000 refunded to the Indian Research Fund Association, being the amount contributed by that body for jungle-clearing.
Lump recurring grant for non-recurring expenditure on sanitation	.....	.....	.....	2,50,000	1,75,000	2,50,000	Decrease in revised is due chiefly to non-utilization of the full grant and partly to transfer of charges to the Public Works Department and to the Head Civil Works in charge of Civil officers.
Grant for medical relief	.....	.....	.....	20,000	.....	.....	These grants will not be utilized in 1915-16.
Lump grant for School of Tropical Medicine	.....	.....	.....	63,000	.....	.....	
Ditto State Medical Faculty ...	.....	.....	.....	10,000	7,000	10,000	
Ditto Bengal Council of Medical registration.	.....	.....	.....	10,000	3,000	5,000	
GRAND TOTAL ...	26,42,133	28,50,459	30,15,154	36,13,000	27,52,000	28,25,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals.

25—Political—

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14	1914-15	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Political Agents	11,854	14,262	11,280	15,700	9,000	14,000	Decrease in revised is due to the appointment of the Political Agent being vacant till July 1915.
Durbar presents and allowances to Vakils, etc.	23,750	15,213	2,646	10,000	5,000	7,000	Budget based on probable requirements.
Miscellaneous	3,372	3,500	4,432	4,300	10,000	2,500 —500	Revised includes a special charge of Rs. 3,000.
Total ...	38,976	32,975	18,358	30,000	24,000	23,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

26A—Agriculture—

Veterinary charges—							
Superintendence	20,208	20,741	30,689	21,000	24,500	24,000	Includes provision for a Deputy Superintendent and his travelling allowance.
Veterinary Instruction	1,08,947	1,13,196	1,28,818	1,45,000	1,45,000	1,45,000	
Subordinate establishment	26,202	25,955	25,652	38,000	29,000	32,000	
Hospitals and dispensaries	8,314	17,026	23,012	16,000	25,000	28,000	Budget includes larger grant for travelling allowances.
Cattle-breeding operations	1,307	49	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Cattle survey	5,841	137	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Bacteriology	13,029	13,167	13,124	13,000	13,500	13,000	
Bonus	—12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Probable savings	.....	.....	.....	—1,000	.....	.....	
Total ...	1,83,836	1,90,271	2,21,295	2,32,000	2,37,000	2,42,000	
Agriculture—							
Superintendence	76,031	69,265	69,456	74,000	70,000	73,000	
Expert staff	91,420	90,843	1,22,977	1,45,000	1,91,000	1,93,000	Budget includes larger grant for travelling allowances and contingencies with reference to actual requirements.
Agricultural College	124	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Agricultural experiments	19,907	60,999	61,157	48,000	55,000	42,500	
Experimental farms	74,804	1,22,926	1,25,705	1,21,000	1,41,000	1,18,000	
Divisional Seeds Stores	10,900	7,231	10,048	14,000	6,000	23,000	
Distribution of Agricultural Literature ...	.....	.....	499	.....	.....	.....	

Sericulture	73,923	99,382	1,09,872	1,51,000	1,36,000	1,13,000	Decrease due to smaller grants for petty construction and repairs and miscellaneous contingencies.
Botanical Garden at Sibpur ...	89,805	81,986	1,06,546	1,10,000	1,11,000	1,03,000	Decrease due to smaller grant for contingencies according to requirements.
Grants to Public Gardens	29,158	31,298	30,026	30,000	30,000	30,000	
Zoological Gardens, Calcutta ...	5,283	5,251	5,024	5,400	5,500	5,640	
Botanical Gardens at Darjeeling ...	14,093	13,986	14,605	14,000	14,000	14,000	
Other Government Gardens ...	39,180	40,098	42,483	44,784	46,500	42,747	
Public exhibitions and fairs ...	2,622	1,408	6,891	6,000	8,000	6,000	
Bonus	.....	426	.....	.....	.....	.....	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—184	.....	—887	
Total ...	5,27,250	6,25,099	7,08,289	7,63,000	8,14,000	7,63,000	
Co-operative Societies	61,051	91,406	92,577	1,02,000	1,10,000	1,24,000	Budget includes provision for additional auditors and larger grant for travelling allowances.
Lump provision for Agriculture and allied subjects	.....	.....	.....	20,000	.....	.....	
GRAND TOTAL ...	7,72,137	9,06,776	10,22,161	11,17,000	11,61,000	11,29,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

26B—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—

Scientific—							
Cinchona plantations	6,67,845	2,73,788	2,37,142	2,14,500	2,04,000	2,22,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings under contingencies of the factory. Budget includes larger provision for the same.
Donations to scientific societies ...	15,200	11,984	17,120	11,870	20,200	16,000	Increase due to the inclusion of the grant to the Dacca Museum.
Imperial Institute	.....	40	22	100	.....	.....	
Labour and Emigration—							
Emigration	22,224	22,619	22,526	23,000	22,000	22,500	
Inland Labour Transport	22,686	22,914	29,615	25,000	24,000	29,000	
Inspector of Factories	60,086	57,868	56,253	68,000	56,000	65,000	Decrease in revised is due to vacancy in the post of Certifying Surgeon.
Statistics—							
Gazetteer and Statistical Memoirs ...	3,726	870	1,420	7,000	3,000	7,000	Estimate based on probable requirements.
Registration of railway traffic ...	9,033	7,602	9,256	8,000	10,000	9,000	
Registration of river-borne traffic ...	5,653	4,137	4,805	5,000	4,600	5,000	
Provincial statistics	30,150	25,769	24,766	25,000	25,000	26,100	

26B—*Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments*—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Miscellaneous—							
Preservation and translation of ancient manuscripts	7,625	9,250	11,220	9,000	9,000	9,000	
Examinations	422	674	971	1,500	1,000	1,200	
Fishery Department	45,415	81,583	55,927	57,000	43,000	55,000	Decrease in revised is due to the abandonment of certain fishery experiments.
Smoke Nuisances Commission ...			24,403	25,500	25,000	26,000	
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies ...	.....	.....	18,701	23,000	16,000	20,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings in the grant for establishment and contingencies.
Inspector of Mines	125	119	75	100	100	100	
Refunds	726	688	1,383	1,500	1,100	1,100	
Lump provision for Director of Industries ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30,000	
Ditto for Development of Industries	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,00,000	
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	—70	.....	.....	
Total ...	8,91,816	5,19,023	5,16,108	5,05,000	4,64,000	6,44,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

29—*Superannuation*—

Covenanted Civil Service pensions ...	45,000	45,000	45,938	45,000	46,000	45,000	
Superannuation and retired allowances ...	28,54,278	29,50,154	29,80,253	31,55,000	30,25,000	31,00,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals. Budget provides for normal growth of expenditure.
Compassionate allowances	2,648	4,005	4,155	5,000	5,000	5,000	
Gratuities	14,932	12,481	27,933	15,000	26,000	20,000	
Ports and Pilotage pensions	8,493	8,194	8,233	8,500	.....	.....	Expenditure is now adjusted under Superannuation and retired allowances.
Refunds	337	219	.....	500	1,000	1,000	
Commuted value of pensions	.....	80,235	1,32,136	2,00,000	70,000	2,00,000	
Total ...	29,25,688	31,00,288	31,98,648	34,29,000	31,73,000	33,71,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

30—*Stationery and Printing*—

Forms Department at the Presidency ...	52,002	59,712	65,264	.....	.....	.....	The Forms Department has been amalgamated with the Presidency Jail Press from 1915-16.
Stationery purchased in the country ...	23,130	25,965	33,030	28,000	32,000	32,000	
Government Presses	6,24,717	6,36,085	5,66,836	6,94,000	6,51,000	6,62,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings under Overtime and Contingencies. Decrease in budget is on account of smaller requirements of European stores for the Presidency Jail Press.
Printing at private presses	1,222	2,505	2,865	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Stationery supplied from Central Stores ...	6,32,102	7,58,232	6,00,918	6,60,000	6,30,000	6,50,000	
Refunds	1,256	2,907	809	2,000	1,000	1,000	
Total ...	13,34,429	14,85,406	12,69,717	13,87,000	13,17,000	13,48,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

32—*Miscellaneous*—

Miscellaneous charges for the treatment of patients of the Pasteur Institute ...	1,296	1,120	2,081	1,000	2,000	2,000	
Travelling allowances to officers attending examinations	7,150	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	The charges are debited to the same head as salaries
Reward for proficiency in Oriental languages, and allowance to the Language Examination Committee	4,017	4,378	8,788	4,000	13,000	10,000	Based on actuals.
Cost of books and publications ...	8,112	1,100	873	1,000	600	600	
Donations for charitable purposes ...	2,30,273	2,20,731	1,89,409	1,70,000	2,00,000	1,65,000	
Charges on account of European vagrants...	7,960	4,991	6,965	6,000	5,500	6,000	Based on actuals.
Rewards for destruction of wild animals ...	13,953	19,534	18,675	17,000	19,000	20,000	
Petty establishments	37,697	57,419	25,049	21,000	24,000	20,000	Budget based on actual requirements.
Special Commissions of Enquiry ...	52,274	1,09,540	96,858	20,000	20,000	10,000	
Irrecoverable temporary loans written off ...	2,323	3,507	285	3,000	600	3,000	
Rent, rates and taxes	45,495	40,305	26,592	40,000	27,000	27,000	Based on actuals
Contributions	3,396	10,342	13,921	14,000	20,000	14,000	This is for guarantees to new telegraph lines wanted urgently for administrative purposes.

32—Miscellaneous—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	
Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges ...	4,804	99,160	31,970	3,06,000	3 06,000	5,30,000	Revised includes 3 lakhs for expenditure on gratuitous relief. Budget includes 2½ lakhs for gratuitous relief, 1 lakh for His Excellency's petty grants and 2 lakhs for general reserve.
Extraordinary items	.. ...	229	.....	.....	.. ...	.....	
Miscellaneous refunds	2,732	9,716	7,116	8,000	8,300	7,400	
Annual stipend to holders of literary titles	4,092	2 908	2,300	3,000	2,000	3,000	
Lump provision for grain compensation allowance for all departments ...	.....	.....	.....	4 00,000	.....	4,00,000	The charges are adjusted under appropriate heads.
Charges for search of hidden treasure ...	36	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Books and subscriptions to periodicals ...	.....	2,138	1,326	2,000	10,000	10,000	Both budget and revised includes payment of Rs. 183 a week for copies of *Moslem Hitaishi*.
Total ...	4,25,610	5,87,418	4,38,208	10,16,000	6,58,000	12,28,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

42—Irrigation—Major Works (Working Expenses —

Midnapore Canal	2,06,943	1,78,785	1,32,836	1 97,000	1,40 000	1,65,500	Decrease in revised is chiefly under maintenance and repairs.
Hijili Tidal Canal	28,774	1,19,004	1,24,864	70,000	60,000	24,500	
Total ...	2,35,717	2,97,789	2,57,700	2,67,000	2,00,000	1,90,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.
Provincial share ...	1,17,858	1,48,895	1,28 850	1,33,000	1,00,000	95,000	

42—Irrigation—Major Works (Interest on Debt)—

Interest	3,51,236	3,39,987	3,51,156	3,40,000	3,51,000	3,51,000	Midnapore Canal—Outlay to end of 1914-15 (Rs. 82,39,830) at 8·4992 per cent. Hijili Tidal Canal—Outlay to end of 1914-15 (Rs. 17,95,489) at 8·4992 per cent.
Provincial share	1,75,618	1,69,993	1,75,578	1,70,000	1,76,000	1,76,000	There will be no capital outlay during 1915-16 and 1916-17.

30—*Stationery and Printing*—

Forms Department at the Presidency ...	52,002	59,712	65,264	.....	.....	.....	The Forms Department has been amalgamated with the Presidency Jail Press from 1915-16.
Stationery purchased in the country ...	23,130	25,965	33,030	28,000	32,000	32,000	
Government Presses	6,24,717	6,36,085	5,66,836	6,94,000	6,51,000	6,62,000	Decrease in revised is due to savings under Overtime and Contingencies. Decrease in budget is on account of smaller requirements of European stores for the Presidency Jail Press.
Printing at private presses	1,222	2,505	2,865	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Stationery supplied from Central Stores ...	6,32,102	7,58,232	6,00,918	6,60,000	6,30,000	6,50,000	
Refunds	1,256	2,907	809	2,000	1,000	1,000	
Total ...	13,34,429	14,85,406	12,69,717	13,87,000	13,17,000	13,48,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first nine months.

32—*Miscellaneous*—

Miscellaneous charges for the treatment of patients of the Pasteur Institute ...	1,296	1,120	2,081	1,000	2,000	2,000	
Travelling allowances to officers attending examinations	7,150	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	The charges are debited to the same head as salaries
Reward for proficiency in Oriental languages, and allowance to the Language Examination Committee	4,017	4,378	8,788	4,000	13,000	10,000	Based on actuals.
Cost of books and publications ...	8,112	1,100	873	1,000	600	600	
Donations for charitable purposes ...	2,30,273	2,20,731	1,89,409	1,70,000	2,00,000	1,65,000	
Charges on account of European vagrants...	7,960	4,991	6,965	6,000	5,500	6,000	Based on actuals.
Rewards for destruction of wild animals ...	13,953	19,534	18,675	17,000	19,000	20,000	
Petty establishments	37,697	57,419	25,049	21,000	24,000	20,000	Budget based on actual requirements.
Special Commissions of Enquiry ...	52,274	1,09,540	96,858	20,000	20,000	10,000	
Irrecoverable temporary loans written off ...	2,323	3,507	285	3,000	600	3,000	
Rent, rates and taxes	45,495	40,305	26,592	40,000	27,000	27,000	Based on actuals
Contributions	3,396	10,342	13,921	14,000	20,000	14,000	This is for guarantees to new telegraph lines wanted urgently for administrative purposes.

43—*Minor Works and Navigation*—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals.			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	
WORKS IN PROGRESS.							
Orissa Coast Canal	.....	.....	12,627	22,000	22,000	21,000	
Nadia Rivers	1,38,461	1,29,341	97,784	1,28,000	1,13,000	99,000	
Gaighatta and Buxi khals	8,637	289	301	500	400	600	
Total Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept	1,47,098	1,29,630	1,10,712	1,50,500	1,35,400	1,20,600	
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.							
WORKS IN PROGRESS.							
Eden Canal	20,684	39,837	68,215	59,000	75,300	51,450	Revised includes Rs. 15,000 for completing the second supply sluice and other works.
Improvement of navigable channels—Ganges river	.....	.....	.....	40,000	40,000	15,000	
Dredging the Bhagirathi entrance ...	54,332	61,847	66,239	18,000	19,800	23,000	
Dredging the Gorai entrance		.....	30,563				
Other works		9,617	1,107				
Bhagirathi observation	.....	.....	18,232	15,000	14,358	12,000	
Creating a spill from Bidyadhari river ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,30,000	1,00,000	This work is urgently required.
Dredging the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers	.....	82,957	93,229	96,500	69,279	55,950	Budget includes Rs. 35,000 for training works in the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers by bandalling.
Bandalling and putting on spurs on the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers ...	48,691						
Grant-in-aid for bandalling the Ganges near Rampur-Boalia	.....						
Improving the channel of the Karnafuli ...	.....						
Taking tidal observations and making surveys in connection with the proposed canalisation of the Bidyadhari and Peali rivers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Observation of rivers in the Birbhum district	.....	3,352	.....	.....	.....	500	
Survey of river for the enquiry into spill water from Bhuten	...	.....	.....	.....	400	.....	
Total Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept ...	1,23,707	1,97,610	2,77,585	2,18,500	3,49,137	2,57,900	
Total Irrigation and Navigation Works	9,23,470	10,68,618	17,51,961	12,34,500	14,91,987	13,44,500	

AGRICULTURAL AND DRAINAGE WORKS.							
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept and of which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.							
WORKS IN PROGRESS.							
Government embankments							
Midnapore takavi embankments under contract	6,12,837	8,55,839	9,87,733	10,37,500	7,47,662	7,27,500	Budget includes Rs 2,47,500 for establishment, Rs 25,000 for maintenance and repairs of the Magra Hât drainage channels, and the balance mainly for repairs to embankments and drainage works and khas tasdil khals.
Rajapur and Howrah drainage							
Mag a Hât drainage project							
Total Agricultural ...	6,12,837	8,55,839	9,87,733	10,37,500	7,47,662	7,27,500	
Reserve	.....	.....	.....	20,000	10,351	20,000	
Total in charge of the Public Works Department	15,36,307	19,24,457	27,39,694	22,92,000	22,50,000	20,92,000	
Provincial share	7,68,153	9,62,228	13,69,847	11,46,000	11,25,000	10,46,000	

45—Civil Works—

IN CHARGE OF THE CIVIL DEPARTMENT.							
Provision for subordinates in each subdivision in Bengal to report on the real condition of rural water-supply ...	.....	19,950	16,745	5,000	4,500	... ...	
Ferry charges	2,584	3,461	5,799	5,000	8,000	6,500	
„ refunds	9,505	18,226	14,182	15,000	11,000	27,000	
Staging bungalows	5,660	4,102	4,027	4,060	3,700	3,129	
Encamping grounds	59	1,060	1,395	469	900	250	
Arboriculture	21,146	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Cemetery establishment	.....	2,139	2,643	4,410	4,500	4,266	
Contributions in aid of excluded local funds and municipalities	4,36,775	5,72,483	3,73,306	1,76,000	1,93,000	1,72,000	
Grant to the Calcutta Improvement Trust ...	11,50,000	11,50,000	11,50,000	11,50,000	11,50,000	1,50,000	
Contribution to district funds and district road funds	8,80,565	7,57,702	8,03,667	8,40,000	9,53,000	7,73,000	Budget represents augmentation grants to district funds
Grants to other local bodies	.....	34,455	20,339	5,000	4,000	5,000	
Other items	1,74,299	13,585			14,000		
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+121	.....	—645	
Total in charge of the Civil Department ...	26,80,384	25,74,263	23,92,099	22,09,000	22,56,000	11,40,000	

45—*Civil Works*—concluded.

Heads.	Actuals			1915-16.		1916-17.	Remarks.
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
In charge of the Public Works Department.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	
Original Works.							
Civil Buildings ... { In progress ... / Not commenced ... }	32,39,655	42,47,697	56,32,317	{ 19,83,000 / 3,00,000 }	25 50,000	6,18,000	
Communications ... { In progress ... / Not commenced ... }	1,71,609	3,09,208	4,58,716	{ 4,55,800 / 1,30,100 }	5,80,000	4,50,000	
Miscellaneous Public Improvements. { In progress ... / Not commenced ... }	49,052	1,18,999	66,213	{ 19,100 / ... }	30,000	4,42,000	
Total ...	34,60,316	46,75,904	61,57,246	28,88,000	31,60,000	15,10,000	
Repairs.							
Civil Buildings	8,46,843	10,24,747	13,13,731	13,05,000	12,83,000	13,90,000	
Communications	8,80,979	8,77,704	10,69,871	7,50,000	8,10,000	9,00,000	
Miscellaneous Public Improvements ...	70,971	77,963	1,07,605	1,45,000	1 30,000	1,10,000	
Total ...	17,98,793	19,80,414	24,91,207	22,00,000	22,23,000	24,00,000	
Establishment	9,84,000	9,84,906	11,72,459	13,50,000	12,50,000	13,00,000	
Tools and Plant	47,470	82,852	2,60,713	{ 50,000	63,000	50,000	
Stock and Suspense	31,176	—79,691		.....	1,04,000	.....	
Total in charge of Public Works Department	63,21,755	76,44,385	1,00,81,625	64,88,000	68 00,000	52,60,000	

AGRICULTURAL AND DRAINAGE WORKS.							
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept and of which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.							
WORKS IN PROGRESS.							
Government embankments							
Midnapore takavi embankments under contract	6,12,837	8,55,839	9,87,733	10,37,500	7,47,662	7,27,500	Budget includes Rs 2,47,500 for establishment, Rs 25,000 for maintenance and repairs of the Magra Hât drainage channels, and the balance mainly for repairs to embankments and drainage works and khas tasdil khals.
Rajapur and Howrah drainage							
Mag a Hât drainage project							
Total Agricultural ...	6,12,837	8,55,839	9,87,733	10,37,500	7,47,662	7,27,500	
Reserve	.....	.....	.....	20,000	10,351	20,000	
Total in charge of the Public Works Department	15,36,307	19,24,457	27,39,694	22,92,000	22,50,000	20,92,000	
Provincial share	7,68,153	9,62,228	13,69,847	11,46,000	11,25,000	10,46,000	

45—Civil Works—

IN CHARGE OF THE CIVIL DEPARTMENT.							
Provision for subordinates in each subdivision in Bengal to report on the real condition of rural water-supply ...	.....	19,950	16,745	5,000	4,500	... ...	
Ferry charges	2,584	3,461	5,799	5,000	8,000	6,500	
„ refunds	9,505	18,226	14,182	15,000	11,000	27,000	
Staging bungalows	5,660	4,102	4,027	4,060	3,700	3,129	
Encamping grounds	59	1,060	1,395	469	900	250	
Arboriculture	21,146	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Cemetery establishment	.....	2,139	2,643	4,410	4,500	4,266	
Contributions in aid of excluded local funds and municipalities	4,36,775	5,72,483	3,73,306	1,76,000	1,93,000	1,72,000	
Grant to the Calcutta Improvement Trust ...	11,50,000	11,50,000	11,50,000	11,50,000	11,50,000	1,50,000	
Contribution to district funds and district road funds	8,80,565	7,57,702	8,03,667	8,40,000	9,53,000	7,73,000	Budget represents augmentation grants to district funds
Grants to other local bodies	.....	34,455	20,339	5,000	4,000	5,000	
Other items	1,74,299	13,585			14,000		
For rounding ...	.....	.....	.....	+121	.....	—645	
Total in charge of the Civil Department ...	26,80,384	25,74,263	23,92,099	22,09,000	22,56,000	11,40,000	

CHARGES.

HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	Actuals, 1914-15.	Revised estimate, 1915-16	Budget estimate, 1916-17.	REMARKS.
	Rs	Rs	Rs.	
Refunds	2,650	30,595	20,969	
Land Revenue	11	2,202	3,872	
Local Rates	2,00,487	1,18,096	1,71,160	Represents provision for the entire charges of the Cess collecting establishment which is wholly borne by the District Boards.
Interest	13,530	6,961	6,590	
General Administration ...	2,51,756	2 87,565	2,95,823	
Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	3 179	4,971	5,152	
Police	22,105	28,112	21,729	
Ports and Pilotage	6,785	10,100	8,300	
Education	24,95,181	26,92 813	21,75,072	
Medical	6,92,358	8,65,600	7 98,200	
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	82 815	1,27,681	1,42,803	
Superannuation and Pensions ...	53,099	62,933	71,276	
Stationery and Printing ...	32,087	35,690	32,175	
Miscellaneous	25,063	31,399	30,769	
Famine Relief	368	1,76,858	34,900	
Railways	3,400	...	...	
Irrigation—Minor Works ...	11,716	2,09,996	...	
Civil Works	61,02,392	66,59,885	51,90,541	
Debt Deposits and Advances ...	6,87,565	6,26,063	4,89,503	
Total ...	1,06,89,880	1,20,07,823	95,05,137	
Closing balance ...	30,65,284	9,94,326	6,76,794	
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,37,55,164	1,30,02,149	1,01,82,231	

SCHEDULE OF NEW SCHEMES ESTIMATED TO COST MORE THAN Rs. 5,000 IN ANY ONE YEAR WHICH IS PROPOSED TO UNDERTAKE DURING 1916-17.

Obligatory schemes which have been provided for in the budget for 1916-17.

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Nature of scheme.	Estimate or maximum cost.			Estimate of Expenditure in 1916-17			Remarks
		Non-recurring	Recurring.	Total	Non-recurring	Recurring	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.—Land Revenue.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	
Charges of District Administration.	Addition to the cadre of Joint-Magistrates and Assistant Magistrates	.....	52,416	52,416	.....	52,416	52,416	The Secretary of State having sanctioned the addition of four Judges to the cadre of District and Sessions Judges, provision has been made for the following lower appointments :— Rs 1 Joint-Magistrate, 1st grade (Rs. 900) 4 ... 10,368 2 Ditto. 2nd ,, (Rs. 700) 4 ... 16,128 5 Assistant Magistrates, (Rs. 450) 4 ... 25,920
19A—Law and Justice—Courts of Law.								
High Court	Payment of contract allowance for supply of typewritten transcripts of the evidence of witnesses.	12,000	...	12,000	12,000	...	12,000	The Government of India in the Home Department letter No. 1550, dated the 20th January 1916, have sanctioned the payment of a contract allowance of Rs. 1,000 to Mr. Hayes for supply of typewritten transcripts of the evidence of witnesses given in one court on the Original Side of the High Court and desired that necessary provision be made in next year's budget.
	Creation of a temporary post of Additional Legal Remembrancer.	...	35,000	35,000	...	35,000	35,000	A temporary post of Additional Legal Remembrancer on Rs. 2,500 a month has been created for a period of one year from the present. A lump provision of Rs. 35,000 has been made for the salary of the officer as well as for his establishment and other charges.

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Nature of scheme.	Estimate of ultimate maximum cost.			Estimate of Expenditure in 1916-17			Remarks.
		Non-recurring.	Recurring	Total	Non-recurring.	Recurring	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
19A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law—*concld.*								
District and Sessions Judges	Addition of four District and Sessions Judges and their establishment.	...	1,28,107	1,28,107	...	1,28,107	1,28,107	The scheme has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. It has been decided to add three posts to the 2nd grade and one to the 3rd grade. The details of the cost are :— 3 2nd grade (Rs. 2,500) ... Rs. 7,200 0 1 3rd ,, (Rs. 2,000) ... 1,920 0 4 Exchange compensation allowance (Rs. 138-14-3) ... ... 555 9 Total ... 9,675 9 Annual ... ... 1,16,106 12 Establishment 12,000 0
Ditto ...	Charges under the Defence of India Act.	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	The application of the Defence of India Act compels provision to meet charges on account of Commissioners appointed under the Act.
	Total ...	1,12,000	1,63,107	2,75,107	1,12,000	1,63,107	2,75,107	
19B.—Law and Justice—Jails.								
Warder Establishment ...	Employment of 4 European warders in the Presidency Jail.	.....	5,760	5,760	.....	5,760	5,760	Four temporary European warders on Rs. 120 are being employed for some time past. In all probability the services of these four warders will be required during the whole of next year.

20—POLICE.

Presidency Police ...	Creation of a third Armed Police Company for Calcutta.	6,363	19,937	26,300	6,000	19,000	25,000	Owing to the prevalence of dacoities by dacoits in motor-cars, the security of the public offices in Calcutta (*e.g.*, the General Post Office treasury, Collectorate, Small Cause Court treasury, Calcutta Custom House treasury, etc.) has to be ensured by posting armed guards and this cannot be done without an additional company of armed police. The sanction of the Government of India has been applied for and a lump provision of Rs. 25,000 made to meet the charge.
Ditto ...	Supply of arms to Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors	5,646	.....	5,646	5,646	.....	5,646	The recent cases of dacoity in the city by armed bands in motor-cars have rendered it necessary that all Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors should be armed with revolvers. It has therefore been decided to ask the Government of India to sanction the supply of 140 revolvers and 2,000 rounds of revolver ammunition and a provision of Rs. 5,646 has been made in next year's budget on this account.
Superintendence ...	Entertainment of temporary clerks in the offices of the Inspector-General and Deputy Inspectors-General of Police.	.....	10,740	10,740	.....	10,740	10,740	The work of the office has greatly increased in recent years, and in view of the recent abnormal development of anarchical crime, an increase of staff to cope with the work is necessary. Provision has therefore been made for 10 clerks.
Ditto ...	Deputation of Mr. J. S. Wilson, Officiating Superintendent of Police.	.....	16,920	16,920	.....	11,280	11,280	Government have already sanctioned the deputation of Mr. Wilson to act as Intelligence Officer for a period of one year from 6th August 1915, but as the war may not end by that date, provision has been made to meet the cost of his deputation till the end of the next financial year.
District Executive Force ...	Addition to the Provincial Force towards the increase of cadre.	3,000	21,810	24,810	.....	19,110	19,110	Rs. Recurring— 150 constables at Rs. 11-8 each ... 1,725 Town allowance of 30 constables (23 for Dacca and 7 for Chittagong) at Re. 1 each ... ... 30 1,755 ×12 =21,060 Cost of maintenance of clothing at Rs. 5 each ... ... 750 21,810 Non-recurring— First kit of 150 constables at Rs. 20 each ... ... 3,000 The scheme was sanctioned in Government order No. 9631 P., dated the 26th October 1914, and the non-recurring expenditure incurred in 1914-15

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made	Nature of scheme	Estimate of ultimate maximum cost			Estimate of Expenditure in 1916-17.			Remarks
		Non-recurring	Recurring	Total.	Non-recurring	Recurring.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24—Police—*concluded.*		Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	
District Executive Force—*concluded*	Buildings in connection with the scheme for the reorganization of the Subordinate Police in Eastern Bengal.	4,09,000	.....	4,09,000	1,58,670	.....	1,58,670	The Inspector-General of Police wants four lakhs for works in progress in connection with the scheme for the reorganization of the Subordinate Police. Rupees 1,58,670 has been allowed.
Ditto ...	Revision of the scale of armourers in the Civil Police and their allowances.	1,321	7,170	8,491	700	2,090	2,500	The Inspector-General wants provision of Rs. 6,264 (recurring) and Rs. 1,321 (non-recurring) in 1916-17 to introduce this scheme. Owing to financial stringency Rs. 2,500 only has been proposed.
Ditto ...	Retention of the police force for guarding the Falta water-works.	.....	6,271	6,271	.....	6,271	6,271	At the request of the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, arrangements have been made for guarding the water-works at Falta. The present sanction expires at the end of February next, but as it will be necessary to provide guards after that date, provision has been proposed to meet the cost which will be fully recovered from the Calcutta Corporation.
	Amount to be recovered from the Calcutta Corporation.	.....	6,271	6,271	.....	6,271	6,271	
Ditto ...	Supply of extra arms for police stations, headquarters force, mobilised contingents and training schools.	22,048	.....	22,048	5,000	.....	5,000	The sanction of the Government of India is being asked and a lump provision of Rs 5,000 is proposed to give partial effect to the scheme.
Ditto ...	Entertainment of two Circle Inspectors for Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions in Bakarganj.	147	6,898	7,045	147	6,856	7,003	The work of the Circle Inspectors in the Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions has increased considerably and it has been impossible for one officer at each place to manage it. It is therefore necessary to split up circles and it is proposed to employ— 2 Inspectors. 2 Head constables 2 Constables.
Ditto ...	Grant of local allowance to constables.	.....	8,424	8,424	.....	8,424	8,424	It is proposed to grant a local allowance of Re. 1 each to constables of both armed and unarmed branches posted on duty to Calcutta Alipore, Sealdah Belliaghatta and Chitpur.

Other Police ...	... Reorganization of the River Police in Eastern Bengal :—							
	1. Stores for boats ...	.....	2,000	2,000	.....	2,000	2,000	This has already received the sanction of the Secretary of State and effect is being given gradually as funds permit. In the current year's budget a provision of Rs. 39,562 recurring and Rs. 660 non-recurring was made and a lump non-recurring provision of Rs. 4,00,000 provided for all building projects of the Police Department, including those connected with the River Police scheme. The Inspector-General wants for 1916-17 Rs. 3,59,988 for non-recurring and Rs. 51,088 for recurring expenditure. In view of the present state of Provincial finance, it is proposed to provide Rs 60,000 as shown below —
	2. Hospital supplies and furniture.	500	.....	500	500	.....	500	
	3. Crew for four thana launches.	.....	7,824	7,824	.....	7,824	7,824	
	4. Construction of floating quarters for Inspectors.	11,660	.....	11,660	11,660	.....	11,660	
	5. Purchase of arms, including ordnance stores	1,000	500	1,500	1,000	500	1,500	
	6. Contingencies ...	2,500	1,000	3,500	2,500	1,000	3,500	
	7. Cost of dockyard stores.	... ...	5,000	5,000	.....	5,000	5,000	
	8. Repairs to launches	.....	3,000	3,000	.....	3,000	3,000	
	9. Acetylene searchlights for thana launches.	5,000	.....	5,000	5,000	.....	5,000	
	10. Staff for workshop ...	.....	5,100	5,100	.....	5,100	5,100	
	11 Cost of coal and fuel, etc	3,180	.....	3,180	3,180	.....	3,180	
	12 Entertainment of workshop establishment.	... ...	11,736	11,736	.....	11,736	11,736	
	Total ...	23,840	36,160	60,000	23,840	36,160	60,000	

	Rs.
Recurring	36,160
Non-recurring	23,840
	60,000

Ditto ...	... Guards for shell factories	6,330	.....	6,330	6,330	.....	6,330	This represents the cost of supplying guards to watch factories which are making shells and other munitions of war for Government.
Railway Police	... Reorganization of the Eastern Bengal Railway Police, Sealdah.	1,435	17,881	19,316	1,000	7,000	8,000	It is necessary to increase the police force employed on the Sealdah section of the Eastern Bengal Railway as crime has in recent years developed in several police stations. Extra staff is also necessary for adequate police arrangements at the Sealdah Station which, under the new arrangements, has three separate blocks of platforms with separate booking offices, waiting halls, hackney carriage stands, etc. The scheme was placed in the optional schedule in 1915-16, but on account of financial stringency nothing could be provided. It is now proposed to make a lump provision of Rs. 8,000 for this so as to give partial effect to the scheme.
	Total ...	4,70,130	1,45,940	6,16,070	2,07,133	1,20,570	3,27,703	

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made	Nature of scheme	Estimate of ultimate maximum cost.			Estimate of Expenditure in 1916-17.			Remarks.
		Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
22.—Education.		Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	
Direction	Reorganization of the clerical establishment in the office of the Director of Public Instruction.	.....	5,388	5 388	.....	5,388	5,388	This office has not been revised for a long time and the territorial readjustment of 1912 and large Imperial grants have resulted in increased work. The new scheme of revision has already been sanctioned. The total cost of the office is estimated at Rs. 58,020, but Rs. 55,260 only will be required in 1916-17 against Rs. 49,872, the present cost.
Inspection	Inspectors for Muhammadan Education.	.....	25,860	25,860	.....	25,860	25,860	Rs. 5 Inspectors on Rs. 200 each ... 12,000 5 clerks ,, ,, 30 ,, ... 1,800 5 peons ,, ,, 7 ,, ... 420 Travelling allowance .. ... 9 000 Contingencies ... ... 360 Office accommodation ... ... 2,280 In view of the spread of Muhammadan education, 5 Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan Education were sanctioned provisionally for two years in 1914 and the expenditure was met from savings in the Imperial grants, but as this source will not be available in 1916-17 and as these appointments are necessary, it is proposed to make provision in the budget.
	Total ...	.....	31,248	31,248	.....	31,248	31,248	

24.—Medical.								
Hospitals and Dispensaries —Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries.	Revision of the Nursing establishment attached to the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital.	2,000	7,868	9,868	.....	6,270	6,270	The scheme has been sanctioned in Government orders No. 586 Medl., dated the 22nd March 1915, and No. 1965 Medl. dated the 23rd September 1915. Provision has been made for the following staff :— Rs. 1 Lady Superintendent at Rs. 225 per mensem 2,700 1 Deputy Superintendent at Rs. 100 per mensem 1,200 1 Assistant Superintendent at Rs 80 „ „ 960 8 nurses at Rs. 20 per mensem ... ... 1,920 4 „ „ „ 15 „ „ ... ... 720 8 „ „ „ 10 „ „ ... ... 960 Total ... 8,460 House-rent ... ... 2,400 Diet allowance for 20 nurses ... ... 2,400 GRAND TOTAL ... 13,260 *Deduct*—Amount of expenditure under the old scheme. 6,990 Balance ... 6,270 The sum of Rs. 2,000, non-recurring, is for furniture and has been spent in 1915-16.
26A.—Agriculture								
Co-operative Credit ..	Appointment of additional Inspectors as Auditors of Co-operative Societies and menial establishment for them.	.....	13,272	13,272	.....	10,000	10,000	In view of the expansion of the department it is proposed by the Registrar to appoint— Rs. 7 auditors on Rs. 100 + 50 local allowance each ... ... 12,600 7 peons on Rs. 8 each ... 672 But in consideration of financial stringency, a lump provision of Rs. 10,000 has been made to give effect to the scheme as far as is absolutely necessary.

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Name of scheme.	Estimate of ultimate maximum cost.			Estimate of Expenditure in 1916-17.			Remarks.
		Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total	Non-recurring.	Recurring	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
26B.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	
Donations to Scientific Societies.	Grant to the Dacca Museum.	...	6,000	6,000	...	6,000	6,000	The Dacca Museum was started in 1912 and a room in the Dacca Secretariat building was allotted for the Museum and various articles of archæological interest that had been deposited in the Dacca Collectorate and elsewhere were transferred to it. The Museum Committee finds it impossible to obtain monetary support from private individuals, municipalities or District Boards. The institution may form the nucleus of the Historical and Natural History Museum of the Dacca University, and as such it is proposed to provide a grant of Rs. 6,000 for its maintenance.
	Appointment of a Director of Industries for Bengal and the scheme for the development of industries of the province.	...	1,30,000	1,30,000	...	1,30,000	1,30,000	The Government of India have already been addressed to obtain sanction of the Secretary of State to the appointment of a Director of Industries for Bengal on a salary of Rs. 1,500—100—2,000 per mensem with his establishment and other charges. The sanction of the Secretary of State has not yet been received. In the budget for 1916-17 a lump provision of Rs. 30,000 has been made on this account. A further sum of Rs. 1 lakh has also been provided for expenditure on "Industries."
	Total ...	...	1,36,000	1,36,000	...	1,36,000	1,36,000	
	Grand Total ...	5,84,130	5,55,611	11,39,741	3,19,133	5,25,371	8,44,504	

Mr. Beatson Bell; Maulvi Musharraf Husain.

He said :—

"My Lord, I present to the House the budget of the Government of Bengal for 1916-17. There has been no change in the figures since the Budget was last before the House. I need not say anything further at this stage."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 3.

RESOLUTION.

(*Under the Rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest.*)

The Hon'ble Maulvi Musharraf Husain, Khan Bahadur, moved the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that early steps be taken to amend the Court of Wards Act, 1879 (Ben. Act IX of 1879), with a view to extend the provisions of that Act so as to protect and bring under the direct management of Government the properties of minor children of tenureholders and other disqualified members among such tenureholders.

He said :—

"My Lord, the Court of Wards Act at present protects the disqualified proprietors of an estate which ordinarily means the right held by a landlord directly under Government. Anybody acquainted with the land tenure of Bengal knows that, besides the right of zamindars over a land, there exist subordinate rights which are permanent and which to all intents and purposes are as good rights over the land as that of a zamindar, which are usually held by pattanidars, dar-pattanidars, rent-free and other tenureholders. The Government of Bengal, as early as 1859, provided for the protection of the minor children of a proprietor and other disqualified members among them by taking up the management of their estates directly under Government and saving the property from ruin. But no such provision has been made for the direct management by Government of the properties of the minor children of tenureholders and other disqualified members among these tenureholders. The Guardians and Wards Act provides for the appointment of a guardian of the person and property of a minor. These guardians are generally appointed on the application of the persons who want to be the guardians themselves. One can easily understand the motive of such volunteer guardians. Without criticizing a class, I simply want to say that the majority of such persons mismanage the property and ruin the interest of the persons whose property they have volunteered to protect. Some sixty years ago when the Court of Wards Act was enacted, the value of the land in Bengal was very small. The rights subordinate to that of a zamindar, however permanent they might have been, were of very little value. But things have altered. The tenures have become valuable properties. It has become necessary that these tenures should be better protected. However some may disagree as to the quality of the management of the Court of Wards, it is admitted by all that its existence is a necessity and in spite of its shortcomings, which every human institution must have, it has succeeded in persuading people to believe that the management of the Court of Wards has really saved many a family from ruin.

I invited the opinion on my proposed amendment of the said Act from all chairmen of municipalities, vice-chairmen of District Boards, secretaries, Anjumani-Islamia, and Government pleaders of this Presidency. All the replies that I have got up to date recognise the necessity of the proposed amendment, and urge me to move the same in the Council and wish me every success. I have received replies from 28 municipalities and eight District Boards, and of these 28 municipalities, all of them accept the principle, and only one or two of them want a little modification. I will read only a few opinions out of the many that I have received on this point.

The Chairman of the Chittagong Municipality says: 'Under the Board's proceedings of 11th March, 1882, No. 80, Collection 4, File 311,

the Noabad Talooks on the estate, the property of Government, which is known as Government Noabad Mahal in Chittagong, are deemed as 'estate' as described in clause 2, section 3 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1876. It will further appear that such Noabad tenures of Chittagong would be included within the term 'estate' as defined by section 3 of Act IX (B.C.) of 1879 (Court of Wards Act); consequently holders of such tenures, if disqualified, would be in a position to take advantage of the provisions of that Act.

As the Government extended the protection afforded by the Court of Wards Act to Noabad tenures of Chittagong it is hoped that Government may be moved to extend the same protection to the disqualified holders of other tenures.

I am therefore distinctly of opinion that it would be advisable to endeavour to extend the operation of the Court of Wards Act for the protection of the minor children of the tenureholders and other disqualified members among them.

The Chairman of the Comilla Municipality says that if the Act is extended to make provision for placing the properties of minors and disqualified tenureholders under the management of the Court of Wards, a large number of properties will doubtless be saved from ruin.

The Chairman of the Burdwan Municipality says :—

'I fully agree with you in the view that the law ought to be amended so as to extend its operations to safeguard the interests of the minor children of the tenureholders and other disqualified members among them in the same way as it does to disqualified proprietors of estates. The former constitutes the general mass of the population, and I am sure you will have the hearty support and concurrence of all right-thinking persons in the country in this your generous endeavour to ensure the protection of the general mass of the population.'

The Chairman of the old Malda Municipality says :—

'The supported measure would meet with the approval of many people as it is desirable that the protection provided for in the Act for the landholders should be extended to tenureholders as well.'

Your Excellency will see that my measure has got the hearty support and approval of my countrymen. With such support, I beg to ask the official and non-official members of this Council to consider my resolution in a dispassionate manner. When I entered this Council Chamber, I was told that this measure can only be opposed or objected to by one influential class of persons, and they are the zamindars. With reference to the opposition that might come from that quarter I beg to state that the tenureholders or the general mass of the population are not asking for any right which will be taken away from the zamindars, such as, for instance, the right of the transferability of the occupancy holding. I could understand that such a proposal might be vehemently opposed by the zamindar. But my resolution amounts to a purely protective measure. It will not give any right to one class of people by snatching it away from another class. And if the middle class people want this protection at the hands of the benign Government, I do not think that any right-thinking person can oppose Government granting any such protection to this class of persons. Of course the tenureholders get some protection under the Guardians and Wards Act. The protection which the Civil Courts render under the Guardians and Wards Act is a very round about one. The influential class of zamindars is receiving protection in a fair and definite way by the Court of Wards Act, and I do not understand why the tenureholders should not get the same sort of protection. These tenureholders are as good subjects of the King-Emperor as the other classes are. If they want any protection from Government, I do not understand why they should not get it. I beg to submit that this measure will do no harm to anybody, but will do good to a large number of individuals.

With these few remarks, I beg to commend this resolution for the acceptance of the Council."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

"My Lord, it will be convenient if I state very briefly the attitude of the Government towards this resolution. My friend, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur, has been propounding theories of a somewhat socialistic character. At the back of all his arguments lies the proposition that it is the duty, or the privilege, of Government to manage the business of every man who is making a mess, or is likely to make a mess, of his own business. This is a far-reaching doctrine, and we must really consider, in the case of each class of business, what limits should be applied to the doctrine. So far as landed property is concerned, it is, I think, a historical fact that the Court of Wards was instituted not for the purpose of helping every landlord of every degree who has got into a mess but simply for the purpose of realising public revenue with proper punctuality, but at the same time with the least possible hardship in the case of ladies and minors and other persons in a similar position. It therefore behoves us to consider very carefully before we extend the Court of Wards Act from proprietors, that is to say, from revenue-payers, to other classes of landlords. We have an open mind upon this question, subject only to a natural desire to make no amendment unless it is really called for. I do not know whether my friend is aware that there are few provinces in India in which this privilege has been extended to classes other than zamindars. Before we do anything, we must ascertain the opinion of the zamindars—both the individual opinion of the great zamindars and the considered opinion of the zamindari societies. If these zamindars, individually and collectively, are anxious that the privilege, which has hitherto been confined to themselves, should be extended to those subordinate to them, we shall give due weight to such an expression of opinion. We must also consult the body which is immediately concerned, I mean the Court of Wards itself or, in other words, the Hon'ble Board of Revenue. The Board will no doubt consult experienced Commissioners, Collectors and managers and will give a most important opinion on the whole case.

I have been interested to learn that the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur has been consulting Municipalities and District Boards on this question. The opinions of the Municipalities and District Boards are, no doubt, interesting, but I may say without any disrespect that the question hardly concerns them; it is a question mainly for the Court of Wards, for the experienced officers of the Government, for the zamindars and tenureholders themselves to consider in all its bearings. Therefore, if my friend slightly modifies his resolution and instead of the word 'amend' he inserts the words 'obtain official and non-official opinion on the advisability of amending' we are at once prepared to accept the resolution. If, on the other hand, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur desires to go on with his resolution in the form in which it stands, I have only to say that the official members will stand aside from the discussion and will allow it to be debated and voted on by the non-official members."

The Hon'ble BABU RAMTARAN BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, I am in strong sympathy with the object which the Hon'ble mover of the resolution has in view. But I am afraid the resolution ought to be amended in order that its intention may be more clearly expressed. The object, I take, is to secure to disqualified holders of tenures the same protection as has been conferred upon disqualified proprietors of estates; if so, the protection attaches to disqualified holders of tenures who have come to own them by succession or otherwise, and not to the minor children of, or other disqualified members amongst, such tenureholders, as the words of the resolution purport to say. If this is the intention of the Hon'ble mover, it may be expressed by substituting the words 'the properties of disqualified tenureholders' in the place of 'properties of minor children of tenureholders etc., etc.' Moreover, under the Court of Wards Act, the management of the estate of a disqualified proprietor is vested not in Government, but in the

Board of Revenue which has, under the said Act, been constituted the Court of Wards and is vested with the jurisdiction to take charge of the person and property of every such proprietor. I would suggest that it would be more appropriate to use the words 'Court of Wards' in the place of the word 'Government'.

The Sovereign is the *parens patriae* and the Court exercises paternal power in the case of infants and persons of unsound mind. The principle fairly applies equally to cases of proprietors of estates as well as tenureholders though in the case of the former the interest of Government revenue and other considerations have led to an express enactment.

The case of proprietors of other landed interests seems not to have been entirely overlooked. Section 10 of the Court of Wards Act to some extent furnishes the remedy which the resolution aims at.

The section provides that whenever a Civil Court is satisfied that an order for the appointment of the guardian of a minor should be made or removes the guardian of a minor or adjudges a person to be of unsound mind, the Civil Court may apply to the Court of Wards to take charge of the person and property of such disqualified proprietor. This provision empowers the Civil Court to apply to the Court of Wards in the case of a disqualified person, whose estate consists in whole or in part of land or any interest in the land. The section has been interpreted to apply also to cases of persons whose property does not consist of revenue-paying estates. This will enable disqualified tenureholders to have their estates placed under the Court of Wards. No doubt it is discretionary with the Court of Wards to take charge or not on the application of the Civil Court, but there is no reason to suppose that the discretion will not be properly exercised when the occasion arises. The question raised is of some importance and requires good deal of consideration and I would unhesitatingly adopt the view of the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell."

The Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSAIN said:—

"My Lord, I beg to accept the amendment suggested by the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said:—

"My Lord, I agree with the Hon'ble Babu Ramtaran Banerji that the words 'Court of Wards' should be substituted for the word 'Government' and 'minor children of deceased tenureholders' for 'minor children of tenureholders'."

The motion was then put in the following modified form and agreed to

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that early steps be taken to obtain official and non-official opinion on the advisability of amending the Court of Wards Act, 1879 (Bengal Act IX of 1879), with a view to extend the provisions of that Act so as to protect and bring under the direct management of the Court of Wards the properties of minor children of deceased tenureholders and other disqualified members among such tenureholders.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council was then adjourned to Monday, the 3rd April, 1916, at 11 A M.

A. M. HUTCHISON,

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal and
Secy. to the Bengal Legislative Council (Offg.).

CALCUTTA;
The 31st March, 1916.

B. S Press—24-4-1916—3779J—350—J L

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in Government House on Monday, the 3rd April, 1916, at 11 A.M.

Present :

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., *Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I., *Vice-President.*

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA.

The Hon'ble MR. N. D. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble COL. W. R. EDWARDS, C.B., C.M.G.

The Hon'ble MR. F. J. MONAHAN.

The Hon'ble MR. J. LANG.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. K. C. DE, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. L. BIRLEY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble MR. C. H. BOMPAS.

The Hon'ble MR. B. C. MITRA.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNELL.

The Hon'ble MR. C. F. PAYNE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. B. H. PANTON.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. S. C. WILLIAMS.

The Hon'ble NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., AMIR-UL-OMRAH.

The Hon'ble SIR SATYENDRA PRASANNA SINHA, KT.

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR.

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI.

The Hon'ble SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

The Hon'ble RAJA SHOSHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHAUDHURI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble BABU RAMTARAN BANERJI.

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. E. H. BRAY.

The Hon'ble MR. A. BIRKMYRE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. MARTIN.

The Hon'ble MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF.

The Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSSAIN.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur.

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAI PRASANNA KUMAR RAY BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble CHAUDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN.

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 1.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Hon'ble Mr. S. C. Williams made an oath of his allegiance to the Crown.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 2.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

By the Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR:—

Record-of-rights operations in Eastern Bengal.

* 1. (*a*) Are the Government aware that, in the course of the present record-of-rights operations in Eastern Bengal, some temporarily-settled estates of which zamindars were settlement holders have been made *khas*, under the proviso to section 3 of Bengal Regulation VII of 1822?

Mr. Birley.

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state how many estates have been so ordered to be held *khas* in Bengal during the last five years, giving in each case full particulars and the grounds for taking such steps?

(*c*) On how many occasions has the authority vested in Government of causing such mahals to be held *khas*, under the proviso to section 3 of Bengal Regulation VII of 1822, been exercised since the enactment of the said Regulation, and on what grounds?

(*d*) What is the process of inquiry, if any, on which the report of the Revenue-authority is based as to the circumstances necessitating such interference under the said proviso?

(*e*) Are the zamindars or other proprietors allowed to be represented at such an inquiry, or is such inquiry made *ex parte*?

(*f*) Were the zamindars allowed to be so represented in the instances referred to in clause (*a*) of the question? If so, at what stage?

(*g*) Who is the final authority in these matters for the purpose of depriving zamindars and other proprietors of the management of temporarily-settled estates?

(*h*) In the present operations, did this authority make any independent inquiry into the allegations against the proprietors before orders were passed on each case?

The Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY replied :—

"(*a*) In the course of the preparation of a record-of-rights in Eastern Bengal, two temporarily-settled estates have been ordered to be held *khas* under section 3 of Bengal Regulation VII of 1822.

(*b*) During the last five years six estates in Bengal have been ordered to be held *khas* under section 3 of Bengal Regulation VII of 1822.

A statement containing particulars is laid on the table.

(*c*) Government are not prepared to compile the statistics asked for on the grounds that to do so would involve the examination of records extending over 93 years and that it does not appear that the utility of the statistics would be commensurate with the labour involved in compiling them.

(*d*) No process of inquiry is prescribed by law, nor have Government prescribed any process by rule.

(*e*) It is the usual practice to give the parties an opportunity of being heard.

(*f*) In the two cases mentioned in the reply to clause (*a*) of this question, the parties were heard by the Settlement Officer and the Director of Land Records in one case and by the Settlement Officer and the Board of Revenue in the other case.

Government have recently requested the Board to give the parties a hearing in every case.

(*g*) Government are the final authority.

(*h*) Government did not order further inquiry before passing orders in the cases referred to: in both of the cases the Board of Revenue, the Commissioner, the Director of Land Records, the Collector, and the Settlement Officer had recommended that the estates should be held *khas*, and the facts were fully set forth in the proceedings. Government are not in the habit of instituting inquiries independently of their own local officers into matters with which the latter are competent to deal."

Statement referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Birley *to Question No. 1 (b) (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri *at the Council Meeting of the 3rd April, 1916.*

District.	Tauzi number of estate.	Number and date of notification under which *khas* possession was taken.	Period for which it was directed that the estate should be held *khas*.	Grounds of order.
Noakhali ...	1560	1872 R., dated September 5, 1911.	12 years ...	That management by the proprietors would endanger the public tranquillity and be otherwise seriously detrimental.
Pabna ...	1745	1554 L.R., dated July 30, 1913.	3 ,, ...	
Midnapore ...	2935	8660 L.R., dated September 1, 1914.	12 ,, ...	That management by the proprietors would be seriously detrimental
Do. ...	2716		12 ,, ..	
Dacca ...	8442	2840 L.R., dated March 15, 1915.	12 , ...	That management by the proprietors would endanger the public tranquillity and be seriously detrimental.
Do. ...	9083	781 T.—R, dated June 2, 1915.	12 ,, ...	That management by the proprietors would be seriously detrimental.

By the Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR:—

Settlement operations in certain Eastern Bengal districts.

* 2. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in certain Eastern Bengal districts, where settlement and record-of-rights operations are going on, commutation is being made of rent paid in kind on the application of tenants under section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885 (VIII of 1885)?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in some cases the share of the produce due to a landlord under a *burga* lease is for this purpose being treated as a rent in kind?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that such steps, if taken by the Settlement authorities, will cause great hardship to a large number of people?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether similar attempts were made in the district of Bakarganj during the last settlement operations for commutation of rent; also, whether Mr. Savage submitted an elaborate report on the subject upon which the said attempts were given up?

(*e*) If the answer to the foregoing question be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, they are taking in this matter in the light of Mr. Savage's report?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of Mr. Savage's report together with all connected papers?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIRLEY replied:—

"(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Commutation proceedings are not taken up by the Settlement authorities on their own motion, but on the application of the landlord or tenant, as provided by law. Where the tenants are aware of their right to apply they are generally eager to do so. Landlords generally dislike commutation proceedings.

Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri.

(*d*) In 1908 Mr. Savage stopped commutations in Bakarganj pending the result of an inquiry which ended in 1913.

(*e*) In 1914 the Director of Land Records, with the approval of Government, issued certain instructions regarding commutation.

A copy of the instructions is laid on the table.

(*f*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement operations in the Bakarganj district."

Copy of the instructions referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Birley *in his answer to Question No. 2* (e) (*starred*) *asked by the* Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, *at the Council Meeting of the 3rd April, 1916.*

1. Under section 40 (6) of the Bengal Tenancy Act, the Revenue Officer, if he considers that it would be unreasonable to grant an application for commutation, can refuse it. In the exercise of this discretion, he should be guided mainly by the considerations whether the commutation would be a hardship to the landlord or tenant, or whether the land is in a fit state to bear a cash rent. The following are examples of cases where it would be *primâ facie* equitable to refuse commutation :—

(1) Where the landlord is unable to cultivate personally and is dependent for his livelihood on the produce-rent, *e.g.*, the landlord is a minor orphan or widow and on account of this fact does not and cannot cultivate the land personally.

(2) Where owing to the land being under reclamation and the crop uncertain, it would be more equitable to wait until the land had been developed before fixing a rent.

(3) Where the raiyat has again sublet the land on a produce-rent, or his landlord pays his rent or a substantial portion thereof in produce.

2. Section 40 lays down the points to which the Revenue Officer must have regard in determining the sum to be paid as a money rent. The following circumstances should also be borne in mind :—

(1) In having regard under section 40 (1) (*a*) to the money rent payable by occupancy raiyats the Revenue Officer may also consider (*a*) whether such rent would at the time be liable to enhancement under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and (*b*) the present money rents at which new settlements of similar lands with similar advantages are made in the neighbourhood.

(2) In having regard under section 40 (1) (*b*) to the average value of the rent actually received by the landlord the Revenue Officer should also consider whether such average value has been unduly inflated on account of the production of a special crop, for which high but fluctuating prices have been received, or on account of high prices ruling in exceptional years, or on account of other exceptional circumstances.

(3) The Revenue Officer will also have regard to the fact that on commutation the landlord is relieved of the cost of carriage and storage of the crop and of the risks incidental thereto.

(4) In having regard under section 40 (1) (*d*) to the improvements effected by a tenant, if the tenant has by his own exertions reclaimed culturable land out of waste, he is entitled to favourable consideration.

(5) The money rent should, according to circumstances, be ordinarily fixed at the average money rent payable by occupancy raiyats for lands of a similar description and with similar advantages in the vicinity, *plus* a suitable proportion of the difference between it and the average value of the rent received by the landlord. It should be remembered that a rent exceeding one-fifth of the value of the gross produce is ordinarily excessive, and the rent settled by commutation should not exceed such a value except for special reasons which must be fully recorded.

By the Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR :—

Upper and Lower Subordinate Sections in Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges.

* 3. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of students on the rolls of the Upper and Lower Subordinate Sections (civil side—corresponding to the Overseer and Sub-Overseer courses) of—

(*i*) the Sibpur Engineering College, and

(*ii*) the Dacca School of Engineering

for the last five years ?

Mr. De; Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri.

(*b*) What is the total average expenditure entailed upon Government for the maintenance of each of these institutions as compared with the receipts therefrom?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"(*a*) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(*b*) The total annual average expenditure for the maintenance of each of these institutions and of receipts therefrom is given below :—

	Expenditure.	Receipts
	Rs.	Rs.
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur ..	2,01,605	29,466
Dacca School of Engineering ...	51,947	10,001

The figures for the expenditure on the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, include the cost of the Electrical, Mining and Dyeing Departments, and also of the University classes in Civil Engineering."

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. DE *to Question No. 3 (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, *showing the number of students on the rolls of the Sub-Overseer and the Civil Branch of the Overseer classes of the Sibpur Engineering College and the Dacca School of Engineering for the last five years.*

Name of Institution.	Sub-Overseer classes		Overseer classes.	
	First year.	Second year	Third year.	Fourth year
1911-12.				
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur ...	41	64	34	32
Dacca School of Engineering ..	15	62	27	59
1912-13.				
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur ..	38	57	39	36
Dacca School of Engineering ...	20	48	54	39
1913-14.				
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur ...	29	43	42	25
Dacca School of Engineering ...	19	60	42	58
1914-15.				
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur ...	23	32	27	25
Dacca School of Engineering ...	23	41	47	40
1915-16.				
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur ...	19	28	22	17
Dacca School of Engineering ...	25	39	17	42

By the Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR :—

Electrical Departments of Sibpur and Dacca Engineering Colleges.

* 4. (*a*) Is it a fact that an Electrical Department has been opened at Sibpur in connection with the Upper Subordinate Section?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the preliminary qualifications necessary for students, and the course prescribed; and

(*ii*) the positions which the students who pass out of that department are expected to secure, and the emoluments thereof?

(*c*) Was the Electrical Department connected with the Dacca School of Engineering of the same standard as the Electrical Department at Sibpur?

Mr. De; Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri.

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Electrical Branch of the Dacca School of Engineering was showing satisfactory results when it was ordered to be closed?

(*e*) What additional cost would it entail if an Electrical Department were maintained in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reopening the Electrical Classes at Dacca?

The Hon'ble Mr. DE replied :—

"(*a*) Instruction in Electrical Engineering has been given in connection with the Upper Subordinate classes of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, since 1896.

(*b*) (*i*) The preliminary qualifications for admission are the passing of the Matriculation Examination or the School Final Examination of the "B" classes of Zilla and High English Schools.

The course prescribed is one of three years at the College followed by one year of practical training at the College or elsewhere.

(*ii*) No guarantee is given to the students who pass out of this Department that they will obtain Government appointments, but they usually obtain employment on an initial pay of Rs. 80 to Rs. 100.

(*c*) The standard of training in the two institutions has not been the same. Neither in staff nor in equipment was the Electrical Department of the Dacca School of Engineering equal to that of the Sibpur College.

(*d*) The results shown in the Electrical Department of the Dacca School of Engineering were satisfactory, considering the limitations in the staff and equipment of that institution. But only eight students have completed the course of instruction provided in this branch since 1913.

(*e*) The cost of re-establishing the Electrical Department at the Dacca School of Engineering on its former basis would be Rs. 2,400 annually for staff, besides contingent expenses; but both staff and equipment would have to be improved very much if the Department were to be continued, and this improvement would involve large additional expenditure, both capital and recurring.

(*f*) The answer is in the negative."

By the Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR :—

Electrical Power-house at Dacca College.

* 5. (*a*) Is it a fact that an Electrical Power-house was erected within the Dacca College compound some time ago?

(*b*) If so, what was the cost incurred in the erection of the Power-house, including the equipment, and for what purpose was it erected?

(*c*) For what period was the College Power-house worked, when was it closed and for what reason?

(*d*) To how many places did the College Power-house supply electricity; what was the total quantity so supplied, and what was the maximum capacity of the Power-house?

(*e*) What was the annual cost of its upkeep and maintenance?

(*f*) Is it a fact that since the closing of the College Power-house, Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. have been supplying electricity to the places which used to be served by it? If so, what do they charge annually for such supply?

(*g*) To what use are the College Power-house and its equipment now being put?

Mr. Green.

(*h*) Are the Government bound by any agreement with Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. to take any supply of electricity from them?

(*i*) Are the Government considering the desirability of continuing to utilise the College Power-house for the purpose of supplying electricity within the area of the new town at Dacca?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied:—

"(*a*) Yes in 1909.

(*b*) The cost was—

	Rs.
Buildings	26,703
Machines, equipment and electrical power plant ...	1,00,019
Well and water supply ...	14,824
Total ...	1,41,546

The plant was erected to supply energy for lights and fans in the College and School of Engineering buildings, for machines in the School workshop and for instructional purposes connected with the School.

(*c*) The College installation was worked from 20th June, 1909, to 13th May, 1913. It was closed for reasons of economy when a new arrangement was made with the Dacca Electric Supply Company, Limited.

(*d*) The College installation supplied energy to the Dacca College building, Science laboratory, Hostel and Superintendent's quarters, to the Engineering School workshops, School buildings, Hostel and Superintendent's quarters, to the residences of the Principal and Senior Professor of the College, and to those of the Head Master and Foreman Instructor of the Engineering School. For nearly two years prior to closing, energy was also supplied for fans and lights in the Eastern Bengal and Assam Secretariat, Press and residences of Hon'ble Members of Council, pending the opening of the Dacca Electric Supply Company's new power plant. The total quantity of energy supplied varied; for the Dacca College and Engineering School requirements the average annual output was 38,000 B.O.T. units and for other Government purposes named in the foregoing reply the average was 29,000 B.O.T. units annually. The highest output in any one year was 67,000 B.O.T. units approximately. The maximum capacity of the plant is 113·5 kilowatts.

(*e*) The annual cost of maintaining and working the plant was Rs. 17,900 approximately, while repairs to the buildings have cost Rs. 606 in the five years since they were opened.

(*f*) Yes. The charge is at fixed rates. The amounts paid since May, 1913, in respect of the places in question, are as follows:—

	Rs.
From May, 1913, to April, 1914	7,005
From May 1914, to April, 1915	7,526
From May, 1915, to February, 1916	8,042

(*g*) The College power plant is not at present being put to any use; the small rooms attached to the power house are used as store-rooms in connection with the Engineering School.

(*h*) Yes. A copy of the agreement dated 15th March, 1913, is laid upon the table.

(*i*) No."

Mr. Green.

Agreement referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Green *in his answer to Question No. 5 (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, *at the Council Meeting of the 3rd April, 1916.*

THIS AGREEMENT made this 15th day of March one thousand nine hundred and thirteen BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL (hereinafter called the Secretary of State) of the one part and THE DACCA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED a company registered under the Indian Companies Act and having its registered office at 14 Old Court House Street in Calcutta (hereinafter called the Company) of the other part WHEREAS the Company was incorporated for the purpose (*inter alia*) of carrying on in the Empire of India the business of an electric light and power company AND WHEREAS the Company issued a prospectus in which it was stated that it was primarily intended that the Company would undertake the supply of electrical energy in the new Civil Station and in the old town of Dacca and that in furtherance of that purpose it had been arranged to take over the license under the Indian Electricity Act granted by the Local Government to Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., and in the said prospectus the chief reason put forward for anticipating that the Company could profitably carry on business was the demand for electric current in Government buildings erected or then in the course of erection on the probable development of Dacca due to its position as headquarters of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam AND WHEREAS relying on the said prospectus a number of persons subscribed for and took up shares in the Company AND WHEREAS the said license was with the previous consent of the Government duly assigned to the Company AND WHEREAS the abandonment of Dacca as the headquarters of the Local Government materially altered the prospects of the Company and the Managing Agents thereupon informed the Government through the Commissioner of Dacca that although a considerable amount of money had already been spent by the Company they considered it their duty to advise the shareholders to proceed to liquidation unless the Government was prepared to guarantee the Company in some way AND WHEREAS the Secretary of State considering it to be for the benefit of the public that the Company should commence and carry on its business has agreed to guarantee that 1,20,000 units of electricity shall be consumed annually for a period of ten years in Government offices and in certain buildings in which the Government is interested on certain conditions hereinafter set out.

Now it is hereby mutually agreed as follows :—

1. The Secretary of State hereby agrees and warrants that if the Company shall duly maintain the supply the amount of electricity which shall be consumed in each and every year for ten years commencing from the first day of April 1913, or such subsequent date to be advised by the Company from which the Company will give a regular supply of current in Government offices, Government residences occupied by Government Officers, offices or residences leased by Government for occupation or use of Government Officers and in educational institutions managed or aided by Government in the town of Dacca shall not be less than 1,20,000 units PROVIDED ALWAYS that the Company shall not be held to have failed in duly maintaining the supply by reason only of occasional short stoppages thereof and in the event of any such stoppages occurring a proportionate deduction shall be made from the annual total number of units, that is to say (*a*) if the total number of units supplied apart from stoppages shall exceed 1,20,000 the Secretary of State shall pay only for so many as may be actually supplied (*b*) if the total number so supplied shall be less than 1,20,000 but would have been 1,20,000 or more but for such stoppages the Secretary of State shall pay only for so many as may be actually supplied (*c*) if the total number that would have been supplied even if there had been no such stoppages be less than 1,20,000 the Secretary of State shall pay only a sum representing the price of 1,20,000 units less so many units as ought to have been supplied during the period of such stoppages. For the purposes of (*b*) and (*c*) the number of units that ought to have been supplied during stoppages shall be taken to be such proportion of 1,20,000 as the total number of hours of stoppage shall bear to the total number of hours in the year. If the number of stoppages in any year shall be excessive the guarantee contained in these presents shall cease for that year, and in the event of there being any difference of opinion as to what shall be excessive the question shall be referred to arbitration under clause 6 of these presents.

2. That if during the said period of ten years the amount of electricity so consumed as aforesaid in any one year shall be less than 1,20,000 units the Secretary of State shall at the expiration of such year pay to the Company for every unit by which the amount so consumed is less than 1,20,000 units a sum equivalent to the average rate per unit paid in respect of the amount actually consumed during that year in the buildings specified in the foregoing clause.

3. The Company shall afford such facilities as may be considered necessary for the training of students at the Company's Power House. The Company shall not be bound to admit such students to the said Power House unless under the charge of a Professor nor shall they be bound to admit more than ten students at any one time.

4. The Secretary of State will indemnify the Company and all persons employed on its staff against all actions suits claims and demands which may arise owing to loss of life or accident to any student so admitted to the said Power House as aforesaid except when occasioned by any negligence on the part of the Company.

5. The Company's said Power House building shall be constructed in accordance with the design and on the site approved by the Secretary of State.

6. If any doubt difference or dispute shall arise between the said Company and the said Secretary of State touching the construction of this agreement or any thing herein contained or touching or concerning any other matter or thing relating thereto then and in every such case such doubt difference or dispute shall be referred to the arbitration of two persons one to be chosen by the said Company and the other by the said Secretary of State within one calendar month after either of them shall have made to the other a requisition to that effect and should the arbitrators fail to agree they shall refer the question or questions at issue to the decision of an Umpire to be chosen by the said arbitrators and the decision of such arbitrators if they agree or of such Umpire if they disagree shall be final and in case either party shall neglect or refuse to appoint an arbitrator within the specified time the arbitrator appointed by the other party shall make a decision alone and the decision of such arbitrators Umpire or arbitrator as the case may be shall be effectual and binding upon both parties.

AS WITNESS the hands of the parties the day and year first above written.

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED by B. K. Finnimore, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, for His Excellency the Governor of Bengal in Council acting in the premises for and on behalf of the Secretary of State for India in Council in the presence of—

R. C. HODGSON,

Under-Secretary, Government of Bengal, Public Works Department.

B. K. FINNIMORE.

THE COMMON SEAL of the Dacca Electric Supply Company Limited was hereunto affixed and countersigned by two Directors and the Managing Agents in the presence of—

ASHUTOSH BANERJEE,

Merchant's Assistant,

14, Old Court House Street, Calcutta.

Seal.

E. J. WRIGHT ... } *Directors.*

A. P. CAMERON ... }

OCTAVIUS STEEL & CO.,

Managing Agents.

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur :—

Primary examinations.

*6. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have arrived at any decision as to the revival of the old system of Upper, Middle and Lower Primary examinations?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"The question of holding public examinations in the Upper Primary and Lower Primary Standards was recently discussed at a conference of Educational Officers and is under the consideration of the Education Department. There is no Middle Primary Standard recognised in the Department."

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur :—

Zanana education in Bengal.

*7. Will the Government be pleased to state what facilities, if any, have been offered for zanana education in the different districts in Bengal and also what amount has been spent for that purpose during the last two years?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"Statements (A and B) showing the number of zanana teachers employed in different districts in Bengal and the amount spent on zanana teaching in the Presidency during the past three years are laid on the table."

Mr. De: Maharaja of Nashipur.

Statements referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. De *to Question No. 7 (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur *at the Council Meeting of the 3rd April, 1916.*

Statement (A) indicating the Progress of Zanana Education and the number of Zanana Teachers employed.

Division.	Name of district.	Number of Zanana Teachers, 1913-14.	Number of Zenana Teachers, 1914-15.	Number of Zanana Teachers, 1915-16.
Presidency ...	Calcutta	1	7	7
	24-Parganas ...	2	3	3
	Nadia	1	2	2
	Murshidabad ...	4	5	5
	Khulna	2	4	1
	Jessore	1	2	2
Burdwan ...	Howrah	2	2	2
	Hooghly	...	1	1
	Midnapore	...	1	1
	Birbhum	2	3	3
	Burdwan	...	1	1
Dacca ...	Dacca	5	5	6*
	Mymensingh ...	...	1	1
	Faridpur	...	1	1
Chittagong ...	Comilla	1	1	1
	Noakhali	1	1	1
	Chittagong	1	1	1
Rajshahi ...	Jalpaiguri	1	1	1
	Bogra	2	2	2
	Rangpur	...	1	1
Pabna ...	Pabna	...	...	1†
	Dinajpur	...	...	...
	Malda	...	...	...‡
	Total ...	29	45	45 + 2§

* Another sanctioned, but not appointed
† Sanctioned, but not appointed
‡ Schemes not yet financed
§ Not appointed

Note.—Zanana education work is also carried on by Mission agencies. In West Bengal there are Mission classes at Hooghly and Midnapore, and in East Bengal there are about 20 governesses working under various missions.

(B.)—Financial Statement.

	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Provincial Funds ...	21,060	22,502	23,206
II.—Imperial allotments ...	3,000	10,870	10,870
Total ...	24,060	33,372	34,076

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur:—

Supply of drinking-water in rural areas

*8. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the desirability of issuing instructions to all District Boards to spend a substantial proportion of the Public Works Cess, which was recently made over to them, towards the supply of good drinking-water in rural areas and the improvement of other sanitary measures?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"District Boards were recently advised to spend freely from the Public Works Cess on the excavation of tanks in rural areas. (A copy of Circular No. 2319-23 L.S.-G., dated the 25th September, 1915, is laid on the table.) Government have not at present under consideration the issue of further orders affecting the discretion of the District Boards in the use of local funds derived from the Public Works Cess."

Circular No 2319-23 L.S.-G., dated the 25th September, referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. De *to Question No. 8 (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur *at the Council Meeting of the 3rd April, 1916.*

No. 2319-23 L.S.-G., dated Calcutta, the 25th September, 1915.

From—The HON'BLE MR. K. C. DE, C.I.E., I.C.S., Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

I AM directed to refer to Government order No. 980 T.—M., dated the 3rd November, 1913, addressed to the Accountant-General, Bengal, a copy of which was forwarded to you with memorandum Nos. 981-85 T.—M., dated the 3rd November, 1913. It was intimated in this letter that the Public Works Cess for the year 1913-14 should be given to District Boards unconditionally but that the question whether conditions would be imposed in future years or not was under the consideration of Government. Subsequently in Mr. Samman's letter Nos. 388-92 M., dated the 7th February, 1914, to your address, it was stated that His Excellency in Council desired to impress upon the District Boards the importance of setting apart a substantial sum out of the income enhanced by the surrender of the Public Works Cess for the sanitation of villages and small towns, for the improvement of water-supply and for anti-malarial operations.

2. It has been the consistent policy of Government to reserve to themselves the powers of earmarking a portion of the Public Works Cess for the improvement of the water-supply and similar objects. Accordingly in the Bill which was drafted to amend the Bengal Cess Act in order to give legal effect to the localization of the Public Works Cess, Government reserved to themselves the power of making rules to prescribe the objects on which this cess should be spent and the manner and proportion in which this expenditure should be distributed. The amendment of the Cess Act has, however, been held in abeyance pending the consideration of the recommendations of the District Administration Committee. In the meantime the Governor in Council desires to draw the attention of District Boards to the recommendation of that Committee for the utilization of the Public Works Cess in financing unions under the Local Self-Government Act, and to warn them against any increase in establishment or other recurring expenditure which may absorb a large part of the additional income.

3. With regard to the expenditure of the current year, in view of the distress in rural areas caused by heavy floods and the decline in the price of jute, the Governor in Council desires to impress upon all District Boards the desirability of spending large sums of money in the excavation of tanks in rural areas. The comparative cheapness of labour should make it possible for a much-needed improvement in this respect to be effected at a minimum of cost, while under systematic control such works should go far to relieve local distress by affording employment for the labouring classes in want. With this object attention should be paid to the employment as far as possible of local rather than imported labour. Wherever the condition of the locality requires, the rule insisting on the contribution of a third of the cost of works on water-supply should be relaxed. In the opinion of His Excellency, this enterprise will afford suitable opportunity to District Boards for the proper utilization of their surplus balances and the additional resources placed at their disposal.

4. I am accordingly to request that the attention of the District Boards in your Division may be drawn to this important matter at an early date.

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur :—

Waterworks scheme for Murshidabad and Azimganj Municipalities.

* 9. Will the Government be pleased to state whether any progress has been made with the proposed waterworks scheme for the Murshidabad and Azimganj Municipalities ?

The Hon'ble MR. DE replied :—

"A joint scheme for the water-supply of Murshidabad and Jiaganj, at an estimated total cost of Rs. 2,14,000, has been referred by the Sanitary Engineer for the consideration of the Murshidabad Municipality. A sketch project for supplying Azimganj with water from the river Bhagirathi, at an estimated cost of Rs. 44,000, has been prepared by the Sanitary Engineer for

Babu Upendra Lal Ray; Mr. Birley; Maharaja of Nashipur; Mr. De.

the consideration of the Azimganj Municipality. A contribution of Rs. 23,000 has since been promised by a private gentleman, on condition that a supply should be obtained from artesian wells, and not from the river, and inquiries have been made of the Azimganj Municipality as to whether they are willing to finance the trial borings necessary for an opinion to be formed as to the prospects of artesian wells in this locality."

By the Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY:—

The *ufra* paddy disease in the Chittagong Division.

* 10. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken for the prevention of the *ufra* paddy disease, especially in the Chittagong Division where it is very prevalent?

(*b*) Is the work of combating this disease carried on under the control and supervision of the expert staff of the Department of Agriculture?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state exactly what methods that department employs to fight the disease and what have been the results achieved?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIRLEY replied:—

'(*b*) The work of combating the *ufra* disease of paddy is carried on under the control and supervision of the expert staff of the Department of Agriculture.

(*a*) and (*c*) Definite results have not yet been achieved. The following steps have been taken to combat the disease:—

(1) The Economic Botanist has been conducting experiments with the object of discovering a variety of paddy which is immune from the disease; some hopeful results have been obtained with varieties which ripen early in the season before the attacks of *ufra* become virulent, but there is as yet no reason to believe that any variety is entirely immune.

(2) With a view to encouraging raiyats to resort to early and repeated ploughing as a means of eradicating the disease, Government allotted Rs. 4,000 for expenditure in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions on grants to raiyats; the results of these experiments will not be known until next September when the attacks of *ufra* usually begin.

(3) The Economic Botanist continued his experiments in the districts of Dacca, Tippera and Noakhali in early and repeated ploughings.

(4) A survey of the infected tract in Dacca district has been taken up with the object of getting accurate information and of learning whether the disease is spreading.

Government fully recognize the serious loss which is caused and have impressed on their officers the necessity for unremitting attention to the disease."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

By the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur:—

Expenditure by District Boards on rural water-supply

1. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount spent by each District Board during the last three years for the supply of good drinking-water in rural areas?

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DE was laid on the table:—

"Particulars as to the amount spent by each District Board on the water-supply during the years 1913-14 and 1914-15 will be found in the answer given to a similar question (No. III unstarred) asked by the Hon'ble Raja Mahendra Ranjan Ray Chaudhuri at the Council Meeting of the 13th March last. Particulars regarding 1912-13 will be found in columns 95 and 96 of Form No. III appended to the Resolution on the working of the District Boards in Bengal for that year, a copy of which is laid on the table.

Mr. De.

Statement referred to by the HON'BLE MR. DE, *in his Answer to Question No. I (unstarred), asked by the* HON'BLE MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA OF NASHIPUR, *at the Council Meeting of the 3rd April, 1916, showing the expenditure of each District Board on water-supply during 1912-13.*

Serial No.	Name of District Board.	Water-supply and water-works.		Total.
		Original works.	Repairs.	
	Burdwan Division.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
1	Burdwan	5,721	493	6,214
2	Birbhum	6,994	1,062	8,056
3	Bankura	5,567	452	6,019
4	Midnapore	3,237	1,236	4,473
5	Hooghly	9,156	280	9,436
6	Howrah	2,271	929	3,203
	Divisional Total ...	32,949	4,452	37,401
	Presidency Division.			
7	24-Parganas	3,499	1,414	4,913
8	Nadia	15,802	252	16,054
9	Murshidabad	5,046	279	5,325
10	Jessore	9,607	119	9,756
11	Khulna	10,266	636	10,902
	Divisional Total ...	44,220	2,730	46,950
	Dacca Division.			
12	Dacca	4,144	6,124	10,268
13	Mymensingh	29,232	4,539	33,771
14	Faridpur	7,686	1,024	8,710
15	Bakarganj	21,255	3,708	24,963
	Divisional Total ...	62,317	15,395	77,712
	Chittagong Division.			
16	Chittagong	.....	3,424	3,424
17	Tippera	793	433	1,226
18	Noakhali	2,159	2,826	4,985
	Divisional Total ...	2,952	6,683	9,635
	Rajshahi Division.			
19	Rajshahi	9,811	366	10,177
20	Dinajpur	3,417	539	3,956
21	Jalpaiguri	1,200	.....	1,200
22	Rangpur	3,161	395	3,556
23	Bogra	1,329	494	1,823
24	Pabna	623	491	1,114
25	Malda	1,319	.....	1,319
	Divisional Total ...	20,860	2,285	23,145
	Grand total for 1912-13 ...	1,63,298	31,545	1,94,843
	Grand total for 1911-12 ...	3,20,879	31,638	3,55,517

Babu Prasanna Kumar Ray; Mr. Kerr; Mr. Birley; Babu Upendra Lal Ray.

By the Hon'ble RAI PRASANNA KUMAR RAY BAHADUR:—

Deputy Collectors on foreign service.

II. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the pay of the following Deputy Collectors is paid by Government :—

Babu Prasanna Kumar Das Gupta, Minister to the Raja of Hill Tippera ;

„ Charu Chandra Chatterjee, Secretary to the Calcutta Corporation ;

„ Nibaran Chandra Ghatak, Municipal Magistrate, Calcutta ; and

„ Devendra Prasad Roy, Assessor to the Calcutta Corporation ?

(*b*) If not, have any sub. *pro tem.* promotions been made in temporary vacancies in their places ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) The answer is in the negative. These officers are treated as on Foreign Service; and, under Article 758 of the Civil Service Regulations, they draw salary from their actual employers.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative. These officers are not on deputation within the meaning of Article 77 of the Civil Service Regulations, as there is provision in the cadre of the Provincial Civil Service for the appointment of officers to perform the duties on which the officers named are employed. Sub. *pro tem.* appointments cannot, therefore, be made in the place of these officers, under Article 90 of the Civil Service Regulations. Attention is invited to the answer given to a similar question (No. XVII) on the 13th March, 1916."

By the Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY :—

Fibre Experts' jute seeds.

III. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the results of the demonstrations of the Fibre Experts' jute seeds as carried on by the officers of the Department of Agriculture during the years 1914 and 1915 ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what further steps, if any, they have taken to test the Fibre Experts' jute seeds on the raiyati fields this year ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. BIRLEY was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) In 1914 the jute seed selected by the Fibre Expert was being tested at the Dacca Farm and experiments on raiyats' fields were not made.

In 1915 the seed was tested in raiyats' fields alongside of similar fields of the same area in which the raiyats' seed was sown. The selected seed is known as *Kakya Bombai* and is of the *capsularis* variety which is chiefly grown in the districts of Eastern Bengal : in those districts the results were generally favourable to the selected seed, and a considerable demand for the seed has arisen. In Western Bengal, where *olitorius* jute is generally grown, the results were not so favourable to the selected seed. The results and the method adopted in obtaining them have been considered by Government, and Government do not think that it has yet been possible to ensure sufficient accuracy to make it desirable to publish them in detail.

(*b*) The experiments will be continued in 1916, and if Government are satisfied that the results are sufficiently accurate to afford ground for a definite conclusion, they will be published."

By the Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY :—

IV. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving particulars as to the number, cost and result of cases in connection with political crimes which were dealt with in Bengal during the period 1905-1915 ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR was laid on the table :—

"524 cases, believed by the police to be concerned with the revolutionary movement, were dealt with between 1905 and 1915. Of these cases, 205 ended in the conviction of the accused and 97 in the acquittal or discharge of

Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.

the accused. In 53 cases, some of the accused were convicted and others acquitted or discharged. Thirteen cases were withdrawn and 155 were not brought before the Courts. The cost incurred in the prosecution of these cases by the employment of special Counsel and pleaders, other than the ordinary prosecuting staff, was Rs. 9,71,569 in respect of cases in the High Court and Rs. 12,34,688 in respect of cases in other Courts. These figures do not include expenditure in Eastern Bengal districts from 1905 to 1912, information regarding which is not immediately available."

LIST OF BUSINESS - ITEM No. 3.

DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL FOR 1916-17.

The Hon'ble NAWAB BAHADUR of Murshidabad said :—

"My Lord,

When I had the opportunity of speaking last year, I hoped that by the time the next annual discussion on the Budget came round, we might have seen the end of the war and the re-establishment of financial equilibrium. Unfortunately, we are not yet within sight of the end of the war and the clouds that darken the horizon, though they show unmistakeable signs of clearing up, have hardly yet dispersed. Indeed the marvel is that so widespread and fierce a conflict, in which six great Powers of the world are recklessly sacrificing men and money, has lasted so long. I fervently pray that victory, for which we have waited patiently for so long, may soon be realised.

For the first time, the Government of India have been compelled to announce what may be called a war-tax. The inference, therefore, is irresistible that a rigid economy has become imperative and will be inevitable for some years to come. It is admitted that the situation has been full of difficulties. The Finance Member is to be congratulated, therefore, for the very genuine effort on his part to rise to the needs of the occasion. The pains that he has undoubtedly taken to practise economy will certainly be appreciated rather than resented.

It is not my present purpose to go into any detailed criticism of the present Budget which offers few points of controversy. On the contrary, looked at as a whole, the figures, I think, are very hopeful and encouraging.

The closing balance of the last year now revised shows a satisfactory increase of nearly 16 lakhs in spite of the actual opening balance of 1914-15 being worse by 9 lakhs. The revised receipts of the last year show a commendable increase of just over 5 lakhs, whereas on the expenditure side, there is further retrenchment of over 19½ lakhs.

The improvement in receipts has been mainly contributed by the heads, Land Revenue, Stamps, Provincial Rates, Income-tax and Jails. Of these the increase under the heading Stamps is very noticeable.

The reopening of the share market as well as the partial excitement of the jute trade in general were responsible for the handsome increment under Stamps. The substantial improvement in Land Revenue is to a great extent due to recovery of the trade, etc.; but the reason for the improvement in collections of ordinary revenue in the face of prevailing distress in certain parts of the Province is not very clear.

The most notable reductions are in Excise. The progressive increase under this head of Revenue was for years viewed with very great dissatisfaction by many, whether advocates of temperance or otherwise. We are told that it is force of necessity and economic conditions arising from a state of war that account for the disinclination of the people towards exciseable articles. It can only be a matter of conjecture whether this forced habit will be followed by an accustomed sobriety on their part. It is believed in some quarters that the scale of excise rates have been so graduated as to exercise a salutary check on indiscriminate consumption, the minimum of which was

Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.

sought to yield the maximum of revenue. Not often has the judgment of Government been more completely justified.

The Government have evidently endeavoured to steer a safe course by making further curtailments in expenditure last year, so that a respectable balance may fairly be expected for opening the account next year. One cannot but deplore, however, the savings under the heads Education and Sanitation, which mean that both of these much-needed and useful schemes for the physical and intellectual well-being of the people, have suffered and will continue to suffer from postponement. The scourge of malaria, the vast illiteracy of the masses, the urban and the rural water-supply, and the extremely strained conditions of the people owing to the prevailing famine prices, form the favourite subjects that have been reiterated year after year in the annual Budget debate of the Council.

The need for economy at such a time as this, will, I think, hardly be disputed by any reasonable individual. One would have liked to see, therefore, the same zeal on the part of the Finance Member to exercise that stringent test in the region of administration charges which are by no means an easy burden on the Public Exchequer. In accordance with the general policy of economy, when all proposals for fresh expenditure in connection with educational and sanitary schemes are being negatived or deferred, and all extravagances of other departments have been suspended, reductions should surely be expected in the figures under the heads General and District Administration Charges. A measure such as this would naturally be unpleasant to those concerned, but this is obviously essential at the present time. I, therefore, regret to be obliged to say that if there is one unhappy feature in connection with the new Budget, it is that no attempt in the manner indicated, has been made to prevent the interruption of the beneficial projects I have referred to above.

The revised expenditure for the head Police shows an increase of about 5 lakhs over the Budget for 1915-16 due to adjustments and the appointment of another Deputy Inspector-General. In spite of too generous a treatment accorded to this department, there is still room for better improvement in the police administration on which the public safety is dependent. Let us hope and trust that your Excellency's memorable address last year to the students of the Sardah Police Training College may always remain a guiding principle to this class of public servants who are proud to bear the name of guardians of the peace.

Many of the proposals in the Budget Estimates for 1916-17 will, in the special circumstances of the year, command a general approval. The estimates for the next year disclose the fact that receipts have been calculated on the basis of the minimum that could be expected in the existing disturbed conditions, and the expenditure on two guiding principles, firstly, that provincial expenditure should not exceed the total provincial income, that is, to leave the balances untouched; and, secondly, that every new scheme, unless imperatively necessary or immediately remunerative, should be rejected. No one will question the necessity of such prudential measures and every one will accept the anticipated burden with perfect composure and cheerfulness.

The satisfactory item of this Budget is the announcement of a rather modest allotment for the development of industries. A prejudice persisted even up to recent times that agricultural and not industrial ventures are congenial to our soil and temperament. Therefore, it is not so much as the amount sanctioned but the visible indication of the Government's policy in future that is so gratifying. Sufficient information, however, is not forthcoming as to how this money is going to be utilised. The success and failure of this enterprise will be determined very largely by its initial choice of subjects and the way in which they are handled.

The Department of Agriculture also is hardly faring better and is really languishing for want of pecuniary assistance which is so necessary for a Province essentially agricultural.

Raja Hrishikesh Laha.

We are passing through critical times. We are on the eve of great changes and a new era of commercial and industrial development is about to dawn. We are especially glad to see in the new scheme of taxation the first faint suggestion of fiscal arrangements destined to foster Indian industries as well as to raise the revenue of the land. I am only expressing the overwhelming sense of public opinion when I say that the people are prepared for any call that may be made upon them for a sustained effort and for continuous self-sacrifice. We are disposed to be patient and trust that Government will be ready to assume a more generous financial policy when normal times prevail once again."

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA said :—

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We are passing through the depressing influence of the present war in Europe, casting, as it does, its shadow on the Budget for the year 1916-17, which has been presented to the Council by your Excellency's Government. Under the orders of the Government of India, the Provincial balances which amount to a very large sum cannot be utilized, and we are limited only to current and normal expenditure and unavoidable expansion.

(At this stage His Excellency left the Council Chamber and the Hon'ble the Vice-President took the Chair.)

We have to cut our coat according to our cloth, and to regulate our expenditure according to our income. Provisions have indeed been made for certain improvements in a small way, but these were only possible in the present circumstances. The first and foremost is the provision for the appointment of a Director of Industries, which we hope will go some way in helping the establishment of factories for the production of goods which are now imported from abroad. We hope the Secretary of State will sanction the new appointment soon, so that it may enable the Government of Bengal to commence operations without much delay. I have no doubt that the Government of Bengal, following in the wake of the Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, by fostering industries which are now in existence and providing facilities for new ones which have not been established for want of proper support and guidance, will confer a much desired benefit on the community, which will be greatly appreciated by the people.

Since the introduction of the reforms for the patrolling of certain selected streets of Calcutta, motor-car dacoities here have practically disappeared, and I have no doubt that, with the introduction of other reforms which are now in the contemplation of Government, there will be an effective check upon the evil which has created a well-grounded apprehension in the minds of many well-to-do families in Calcutta. The provisions, therefore, for an additional Police force, for arming the inspectors and the sub-inspectors of the Presidency Police and for the reorganisation of the River Police in Eastern Bengal, are steps in the right direction and are expected to be fruitful of beneficial results. The creation of a temporary post of Additional Legal Remembrancer for advising and instructing the Police in matters connected with the investigation of dacoities and prosecution of persons concerned therewith, will, under proper guidance, help a good deal in reducing the heavy fees hitherto paid to lawyers in bringing the culprits to justice. I hope the experiment will prove a success.

I am glad to observe that a provision of 2½ lakhs has been made for gratuitous relief, which will be needed very much in Bankura, but I am not in a position to express an opinion as to whether this sum will be adequate to meet the wants of that district. From other sources we hear of acute distress still prevailing there and likely to continue long. I hope the Government will be pleased to inform us about the true condition of the district. In the Revised Financial Statement, I find that under the heading

Maulvi Musharraf Husain.

of Interest the amount that will be expected to be realised as interest on advances to cultivators has been put down as Rs. 1,40,000, but no provision has been made for takavi advances for affording relief to the people, specially of those parts which have been affected by scarcity. I have no doubt that it will meet with the sympathetic consideration of Government should any occasion arise. Considering, however, all the circumstances, I think that the Budget, as a whole, has provided for most of the requirements, if not for all, that were considered very urgent and demanded the immediate attention of the Government."

The Hon'ble MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSAIN said :—

"Sir, the Budget that has been presented to the Council is one of ordinary income and expenditure. The Budget is careful to show that the expenditure decided upon is just necessary to carry on the work of administration efficiently. It has therefore left very little room for comment. In fact, the Budget is conspicuous by the absence of almost any expenditure set apart for any general improvement. The problem for 1916-17 is therefore one of standing still. For this we have to thank the terrible war that is raging in Europe, which has upset the economic condition of many countries and our case is therefore no exception.

Forest.

It is a matter for general satisfaction that the Provincial revenues under the principal heads have been increasing year by year despite the war, except for the income from Forest. I am sorry to notice that the income under this head has fallen off considerably during the last year and that there is little chance of its recovery during the year under review. If the Forest Department worked on a businesslike principle this would never have been the case, as the price of iron, which, in many cases is a substitute for sâl timber, specially in the case of buildings, has been doubled. If the Forest Department would for the future change their stereotyped way of working, I am sure that the Department will succeed in increasing its income or at least succeed in bringing it up to its former level.

Registration.

Coming to the head Registration, I beg to repeat my request to the authorities to count the services of sub-registrars from the date of their entering into the service and not from the date of the reorganisation of the Department, which is unjust and inequitable. The question of increasing the pay of the muharrirs of this Department was discussed in this Council many a time, and I again beg to bring the case of these unfortunate and hard-working people to the notice of the authorities for a favourable and early consideration of their grievances.

Education.

In reply to an interpellation made in this Council by the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Hossain Haidar Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, the Government replied that there are now 27 high schools in the Presidency which are unable to obtain affiliation for want of funds and other reasons, as the Government are unable to contribute their share at present for the improvement of these schools on account of the war. I venture to think that the Government should move the University to be lenient in its demands at present and to alter the Rules so as to meet the special circumstances created by the war. I beg to take the liberty of stating here that the object of all Governments is not the safety of life and property alone, but its first and foremost duty is the elevation of the people mentally, morally, economically and physically. The education, health and comfort of individuals, as well as societies and nations, should find their proper place in the budget of any Government. When it was found that 27 schools were suffering for want of funds, I should have thought that it was the duty of the Government to have inquired into these cases and helped them. The plea that war stands in the way of obtaining 2 to 3 lakhs of

rupees for these schools cannot and must not be allowed to hold good. If the Government do not agree to spend a few lakhs of rupees more for these infant institutions, the University should be compelled to be less exorbitant in its demands during war time.

Communications.

Turning to the point of communications, I beg to request my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Green to see if he can in any way help the Indian Tea Planters of the Duars by going to the locality himself and obtaining an idea of what is wanted from personal observation. If he would only go there, the Indian Planters would, I am sure, be able to show him how moderate their demands are and how easily they can be met by a few minor alterations to the alignments already decided upon."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"SIR,

The Imperial budget has been described, and I take it, rightly described, as a war budget. Our budget, being a part of the Imperial budget, bears upon it traces of the financial stress and strain through which the Empire is now passing. Except perhaps in items here and there, there is a contraction of revenue and curtailment of expenditure. Dealing with the budget, we, representing the educated community, feel the deepest possible interest in two items of expenditure, viz., education and sanitation, and we judge the budget by applying this test, and by so doing, I am constrained to say the result is somewhat disappointing. There has been a contraction from year to year in the grant for education. I will take the figures for the last three years, and I find that in 1914-15 the actuals were 92 lakhs. Whereas the budget estimate for 1915-16 came up to Rs. 1,05,62,000, the actuals for 1915-16 were a great deal less than the budget estimate of that year, being Rs. 89,69,000, and the budget for 1916-17 shows a still further decline, being only Rs. 89,33,000. This decrease, a steady decline in the provision for education, compares unfavourably with a similar decline in other parts of India. I have got the figures for the rest of India with me, and I will read them out for the information of the Council. In Bengal the budget estimates are, as I have just read out for 1915-16, 1 crore and 5 lakhs, for 1916-17, Rs. 88,33,000. In Bombay the Budget estimates were for 1915-16, 76 lakhs, and the estimate for 1916-17 amounts to 77 lakhs, that is to say, one lakh in excess of the previous year, whereas ours is 20 lakhs short of the budget estimate for the previous year. In Madras the budget estimates for 1915-16 amounted to 77 lakhs, whereas for 1916-17 they amount to 80 lakhs. In the United Provinces it was 67 lakhs for 1915-16, 61 lakhs for 1916-17. In the Punjab it was 11 lakhs for 1915-16, and 12 lakhs for 1916-17. In Burma it was 31 lakhs for 1915-16 and in 1916-17 it is practically the same. In Bihar and Orissa it was 37 lakhs for 1915-16, and it is practically the same for 1916-17. In the Central Provinces it was 34 lakhs for 1915-16, and 32 lakhs for 1916-17. In Assam it was 15 lakhs for 1915-16, and the same in 1916-17. Sir, that comparison seems to me to be eminently unsatisfactory, and I think that we have legitimate grounds for applying to the Government of India for an enhancement of the budget grant for 1916-17 under this head. Coming now to some of the detailed figures, under the head of Education, I find that for the last three years there has been a steady decline in the grant-in-aid for secondary schools, and, Sir, the grant-in-aid system represents what I may say is the mainstay of the educational movement of the province. We find, turning to the budget, page 55, that the actuals for 1914-15 for grants-in-aid were 31 lakhs. The revised estimate for 1916-17 was 20 lakhs and the budget estimate for 1916-17 is only Rs. 14,80,000. I find the sum provided for primary education is a little over 2 lakhs of rupees. I am giving the figures in round numbers. I am bound to say that primary education has not been making satisfactory progress in this province, and I fear that if a comparison were instituted between the growth and expansion of primary education

Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.

in Bengal, with the growth and expansion of primary education in other provinces, we will suffer by that comparison. The Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction will be able to confirm me in this statement. I do not think we are moving sufficiently fast. It seems to me that we are moving more slowly than the other provinces. For the past two years we have been told that funds are wanted. About two years ago the Government of Bengal submitted certain proposals for the spread of primary education and I should like to know what has been done, and what steps have been taken to give effect to those proposals. I hope my Hon'ble friend the Director of Public Instruction will be able to give me a satisfactory answer regarding the points that I have just raised. A sum of 5 lakhs I notice has been provided for the Belgachia Medical School. I am glad that Government have come to the rescue of that institution and are going to redeem their promise. From the statements which have appeared in the newspapers, it appears that we have only one qualified medical man on the register to deal with 25,000 persons, and the number of our medical men needs to be supplemented. The Government of India have accepted the resolution moved by my friend the Hon'ble Dr. M. N. Banerji to the effect that lower standard schools should be provided for medical education for the benefit of the rural population. I know that the Hon'ble Colonel Edwards takes a deep interest in this matter, and I hope and trust that under his auspices we shall soon have a large sum provided for medical schools of this standard, so that they may meet the growing requirements of our population. Sir, I desire to refer to some items of expenditure given on page 4. We find the sum of one lakh of rupees provided for charges under the Defence of India Act. I do not think I should be doing justice to my own feelings, or of the community that I have the honour to represent in this Council, if I did not give expression to the sense of uneasiness—I was going to say the sense of unrest—that has been awakened owing to the large number of internments that have taken place within the last few weeks. Only yesterday the relatives of a person who has been interned came to me and wanted to know the head and front of the offence for which the young man had been interned. The young man has only recently come back from America and was carrying on a business. All of a sudden he was arrested, his house searched and he now finds a place in the Presidency Jail. Nobody knows of the charge against this young man and nobody knows what the offence is. I do hope and trust that the Government will vouchsafe some information at least to the relatives so as to allay their feelings. There is also another point which I desire to bring forward in this connection for the consideration of Government. Some at least of those who have been interned have been the bread-winners of their families. I think that some provision should be made for the maintenance of their families during the period of internment. In 1908, when a number of people were deported, I know Government offered to maintain their families. The cases are analagous, and something of this kind should be done.

In page 5, I find a provision of Rs. 7,000 for the distribution of the weekly war news. I should like to know the nature of this weekly news. I do not know whether the newspapers cannot serve the same purpose, but I hope the hon'ble member in charge will be able to give us some information on that point. I find on the same page that provision has been made for the construction of a bungalow for the Assistant Superintendent of Emigration at Goalundo, and Rs. 3,000 for the removal of his furniture. His occupation will soon be gone because indentured labour is doomed, and I hope that within a measurable distance of time it will altogether disappear.

I find further on the same page that provision is made for the repairs of certain approaches to ferries and ferry ghats. I take it that the proceeds of these ferries are appropriated by Government. If I am right in that assumption, I desire to renew my protest against the Government annexing the proceeds of these ferries, because they constitute a local fund, and should belong to the local bodies. Their appropriation by the Government seems to me to be in entire conflict with the policy the Government have been following for the last few years. The policy of the Government is to

Babu S. N. Banerji; Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

help local bodies out of provincial funds, but the process is reversed in this case. If Local Self-Government is to thrive and prosper then local funds should be supplemented, and Local Self-Government cannot thrive and prosper if the Local Government were to encroach upon the domain of local finance.

Sir, I find a sum of one lakh of rupees has been budgeted for the development of industries and Rs. 36,000 for the maintenance of a Director. I should like to know if the appointment has been sanctioned by the Government of India, and if so, when we may expect the Director to take charge of his duties. As regards the lakh of rupees for the development of industries, I should like to know what has been done to give effect to the resolution which the Government accepted on my motion at the Legislative Council held at Dacca in July last. The Government then accepted my resolution that speedy effect be given to Mr. Swan's recommendation, and I shall be glad if the hon'ble member would be in a position to say what has been done in this direction. The public demands with unerring emphasis that Government should take an active part in the encouragement and development of our industries, and it is largely in deference to that feeling that the Industrial Commission has been appointed by the Government of India, and I understand that the Minto Professor of Economics, Mr. Hamilton, is to be deputed to Japan to note how industries have been developed by State help. All this indicates a departure in the policy of the Government, and I hope that my hon'ble friend will be able to give us an assurance that something real, something definite, something substantial will be done for the development of our industries.

One word more and I have done.

I desire to call attention to the question of malaria. My hon'ble friend to my right* moved a resolution in this Council in which he recommended that a grant of a lakh of rupees should be made for the prevention of malaria. That resolution was not accepted by the member in charge. He was however good enough to tell us that if definite proposals were forthcoming there would be no difficulty in the way of money. It seems to me that my hon'ble friend places the responsibility on the wrong shoulders altogether. I do submit that it is for the Government and not for the representatives of popular opinion to come forward with definite proposals for the prevention of malaria, and it is for the Government to formulate such schemes. I know that Government will have to rely upon its experts and I hope that we shall not have to wait till doomsday. We have been waiting long, since 1861 when the epidemic first broke out. At the present moment it seems to me that there are various conflicting views, and some doctors are of opinion that certain things have to be done, and others that certain other things have to be done to get rid of malaria. Dr. Bentley is in favour of the system of what is known as *bona facione*—which is a double system of irrigation and sanitation. It has been found to be successful in Italy. It may be tried here. At any rate, Sir, it is a matter of the first importance that something real and something definite should be done, and that our efforts should not be paralysed by the conflicting views of experts holding different opinions on the subject. Public opinion is growing impatient, and I presume that the attitude of the Government must also be the same. The Government must sympathise with this attitude of public opinion. In this matter we have waited long enough, and we want that some experiment should be tried—let it be in a limited area. Let an announcement be made in this matter, and I hope that my hon'ble friend the member in charge will be able to tell us that Government are prepared to take definite steps and that this work will be taken in hand in the course of a month or so."

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR OF BURDWAN said :—

"SIR,—I do not propose to take up the time of the Council for long. I only wish to refer to two items. Turning to the head Medical, I find a provision for the Sambhu Nath Pundit Hospital for lady doctors and then in another place I find a revised provision for the establishment of

* The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

Maharaja Bahadur of Burdwan; Babu Upendra Lal Ray.

nurses, lady superintendents, etc. I do not know how the nursing system works in Calcutta, but I think the time has come for the Government to consider whether these nurses in the male wards of mufassal hospitals are really the ideal thing to have. I rather think that the Surgeon-General will agree with me that the matter wants consideration. Personally, if I had to be admitted to a hospital, I would much rather have male attendants than female nurses, and I think that the sentiment regarding nurses in male wards is a thing that has never been thoroughly considered by Government. By all means have nurses in female wards and female hospitals, and as for the matrons they should not be kept in male wards, for they are a perfect nuisance so far as my experience goes. What I really want to do, is to draw the attention of the Government and the Surgeon-General to this matter, now that we are taking up the question of a nursing establishment in earnest, as to whether or not experiments should be made in the mufassal hospitals to substitute the nurses by compounders who would take up as much as it is possible for a male nurse and attend to the male wards in mufassal hospitals. I am all for the appointment of nurses in female hospitals, but I think the Indians, at least a large number of them, would prefer to have male attendants in male wards.

Turning now to the provision made for municipalities, I would like some of the members of the Government to go into the mufassal this year particularly to find out how bad the dust is in a good number of the mufassal towns in Bengal, and I think that while we all welcome the grant for drainage and other sanitary schemes, in mufassal towns in Bengal, the Government should consider as to whether or not, in towns where there are already water-works, it will be possible to devise schemes for laying unfiltered water in those towns, not only to allay the dust, but at the same time by allaying the dust, to check a certain amount of disease which owes its origin to dust. I think if the Government were to consider this matter in some mufassal towns at any rate, and if the Government were prepared to make a grant, the rest of the amount could be found by the municipalities with the aid of enterprising gentlemen of the town.

These are the only two matters I wish to bring forward before the Government. There is nothing else in the budget that calls for discussion or criticism, as everyone knows it is a war budget."

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY said :—

"Sir, I beg to offer a few remarks on the Budget now before us.

Ports and Pilotage.

We are grateful to the Government for continuing the grant of Rs. 1,50,000 to the Port of Chittagong. It is true that even if funds are available it is not possible at present to obtain another suitable dredger for the port, the necessity for which is recognised by the Bengal Government and the Government of India. It is hoped that this will not be lost sight of and the port will be equipped with this most urgently-needed requirement as soon as opportunities offer themselves.

Sanitation and Water-supply.

I am glad to note that a sum of Rs. 57,454 has been budgeted for the Tippera District Board for excavation of tanks. The necessity for good water-supply cannot be overestimated and the money allotted will no doubt be usefully spent. It is hoped that in the near future steps will be taken for supplying filtered water to the residents of the town of Comilla by the establishment of suitable water-works. I regret to find, however, that the sum of Rs. 60,000 budgeted last year for the Chandpur water-supply scheme does not find a place in the Budget under review. A sum of Rs. 10,200 only has been provided for the pay of the European Engineer-Secretary for the Chittagong Municipality against the sum of Rs. 20,000 provided last year for this purpose as well as for the sanitary improvement of the town of Chittagong.

Babu Upendra Lal Ray.

Education.

In the absence of details, it is not possible to ascertain whether the recommendations for the affiliation of the Chittagong College in certain subjects will be given effect to in the coming year. The success of an ever-increasing number of students at the Matriculation and Intermediate examinations from year to year justifies the proposed affiliations without any further loss of time.

Medical.

The Budget provides for an addition of Rupees one lakh under the head Medical to the amount of Rs. 27,25,000 appearing in the Amended Draft Financial Statement and this increase will materially help in bringing about desired improvements.

There is a feeling in certain quarters that road and water communications in many districts are given minor consideration in comparison with sanitation and education. In fact, in many places there are good roads without proper bridges and bridges without decent roads, while in others neither roads nor bridges worth the name exist at all. These are, no doubt, local matters; but I am voicing the opinion of many in saying that more attention should be paid to the question of better communications, which is the primary object for which road and public works cesses are levied. The answer to my question in the year 1914 about the amounts received as revenue, tax and fees, and the amounts spent on public works, education and sanitation did not show the exact proportion of revenue to expenditure for each division; and in this respect also there is a belief in certain quarters that some places get better consideration than others. A statement that an even distribution is made in these matters will certainly relieve the minds of many.

I find at page 4 of the Budget that a sum of Rs. 25,00,000 has been earmarked out of the closing balance for the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum. It is not understood why this Government should contribute such a big amount to an undertaking at Ranchi. It appears from the speech of the Hon'ble Colonel Edwards in introducing the Budget that the work has been postponed owing to 'financial stringency.'

Agriculture.

I must thank the Government for the far-reaching work that is being done by the Department of Agriculture in the introduction of new crops, notably potatoes, in finding out the manurial requirements of the soil and in improving the local strain of the different crops of the cultivations. I have been watching the results very carefully and am glad to see that the Government are after all taking proper steps for the improvement of the material condition of the people. Commercial improvements cannot be effected without improvement of the agriculture of the country. It is only a truism to say that agriculture is the foundation of all commerce and manufacture. It is therefore necessary that the Government should not try to reduce the expenditure of this Department except under very great financial stress.

The public had, I am sorry to observe, hardly any confidence in the workings of the Department, but under the régime of its present Director the policy pursued by him has appealed to the people and they are beginning to realise the great benefits they might obtain from this Department. I would, therefore, suggest that the present staff, especially of those who come into close personal contact with the raiyats—I mean the demonstrators—should be further increased. This means an increase of Rs. 20 per month per man, which should not be grudged.

Distribution of new seeds and manures requires finance, which might be secured by organising agricultural co-operative societies. It is satisfactory to note the progress already made by the co-operative credit societies; and agriculture ought to receive its proper share of attention. It seems to me that the organisation of the Department is defective. It is simply a money credit. The money is very often not utilised for the purpose for which it is meant.

Babu Upendra Lal Ray; Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur.

The defect is due to a separation of the two Departments, which should be closely connected. The Co-operative Department should be under the control of the Department of Agriculture which has hardly any voice at present in the working of the rural co-operative banks, and without this control no real work can be done. In all other countries and particularly in Canada and the States this is an integral part of the Department of Agriculture. If the same system is introduced here the expenditure may be further reduced.

I have seen the Divisional seed store and am glad that it has been started. The public wanted such a central depôt where manures and implements are readily available. But this should be further developed. There should be an agricultural museum and library in connection with the Divisional seed store. This museum may contain all the different varieties of crops, the specimens of insect pests and diseases, the methods of combating the diseases and pests, collection of beneficial insects and birds which are to be preserved and multiplied and of injurious insects and birds which are to be destroyed.

The Imperial officers of the Department are, I believe, placed on the same status and footing with those of the other Departments, viz., educational and scientific. But the lot of the Provincial officers who have to do a good deal of scientific as well as executive work is otherwise. They should have the same status and pay as the members of the Postal and Telegraph services.

Grand Trunk Canal Project.

I am glad to observe that the Grand Trunk Canal project has been at last modified by this Government much on the lines indicated in my previous speeches. I venture to say that the scheme as modified has been greatly appreciated by the Indian commercial community.

Noakhali.

A definite pronouncement with regard to the fate of the town of Noakhali will relieve the present state of uncertainty in the minds of the inhabitants of the district.

In conclusion, I desire to express the gratitude of the inhabitants of the Chittagong Division to this Government for the assistance given to the distressed people of the Tippera and Noakhali districts by grants and agricultural loans during the last scarcity. The relief operations were started by the local authorities amongst whom the name of Mr. Lang, the then Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, deserves special mention, and the Hon'ble Mr. Boatson Bell in company with them visited the distressed areas at great personal discomfort; and but for this assistance and the charity of the public many human lives would have been lost."

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR said:—

"Sir,—The Budget for 1916-17 is, as it must be, under the existing state of things and I have nothing to say on it as a whole. But I have something to say on the grants for sanitation and the money utilized by us.

We saw, from the replies given by Government to the questions put at the meeting of the Council held in September last by the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray, that, so far back as February, 1914, *i.e.*, over two years ago, Government gave *definite* instructions to the District Boards how to spend the proceeds from the Public Works Cess, and yet there was a huge balance in their hands at the end of the year 1914-15.

And we see from the reply given by the Hon'ble Mr. K. C. De on March 6th to the Hon'ble Mr. B. Chakravarti's question that the total

grant for sanitation since the year 1911 up to 1915-16 amounted to about 75 lakhs of rupees in round figures, out of which we have utilized about 25 lakhs only, *i.e.*, about one-third of the total grant.

What is the explanation for this failure to utilize the grant to the fullest extent?

It is said that if the District Boards are adequately to discharge their responsibilities in regard to sanitation, their constitution should be enlarged and there should be a preponderance of elected members on the Boards who would be in close touch with local wants and local opinion. But, my Lord, while fully acquiescing with the views of those who demand an elective majority, chosen by the non-official members of the Sub-district or Local Boards, I do not believe that an elective majority only would be an effectual remedy. In my opinion something more is necessary.

I agree with the *Englishman* and the *Statesman* as to what they said in their issues of May 10th and May 5th, 1915, respectively, on the point and crave your Lordship's permission to quote the passages:—

The *Englishman* said—'It is all very well to pass long resolutions breathing a generous spirit of official surrender, but unless there is an authoritative body which will carve out for each province a policy of intelligent advancement and see that municipalities and Local Boards conform to some elementary standards of efficiency, Local Government in India will become a colossal and expensive mosaic of muddle. The Government of India seems to agree with the Decentralization Commission that Divisional Commissioners and other local officers will provide all the guidance that is necessary; but this must be, in the nature of things, a variable and uncertain kind of guidance, since Divisional Commissioners are frequently changing, whereas a local Government Board would have a settled and continuing policy governed by well-defined regulations. It could deal authoritatively with the local body that neglects its duty as well as with the local body that exceeds it. Like the Local Government Board at Whitehall, it should be an official body forming an integral part of the Local Government and composed, as far as possible, of men specially qualified by experience and knowledge gained in other countries as well as India to deal with every branch of the intricate and vitally important problems of Local Government. For such a body there is immense scope in India for solid and beneficial work for the community. It would replace a system at the mercy of spasmodic resolutions and erratic interferences.'

The *Statesman* said—'Unfortunately, the idea of establishing a Local Government Board in each province was condemned by the Decentralization Commission, with whose finding all the Local Governments are in agreement. Much may be said, however, for the view that such a Board is a real necessity in a country which has no sanitary policy and few good models to work by, and time will probably show that, without this stimulus from above, no reforms in the powers or composition of the District Boards will be of much avail.'

On April 2nd, 1913, I said something similar, viz., that there should be a central authority to systematically deal with matters of water-supply, sanitation and medical relief of the Province and on June 4th of that year, submitted to Sir William Duke a note recommending Government to create a central authority with a whole-time President of the position of a Commissioner.

Sir William did not commit himself to an opinion as to the proper machinery that should be created, but I understood from his words that he thought that with a greatly increased expenditure on water-supply and sanitation it would be desirable to develop some special machinery to look after it.

As the word 'central' might be construed to mean centralization of work against the scheme of decentralization, I submitted to Government, on July 26th, 1913, a note suggesting that the Sanitary Board might be enlarged with a whole-time President of the position of a Commissioner.

Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

Government have been pleased to enlarge the Sanitary Board by the addition of three non-official members of the Council. But, Sir, as I said on April 2nd, 1914, and on April 6th, 1915, unless the Sanitary Board is further widened and vested with powers to supervise effectually the workings of the District Boards and Municipalities in matters of sanitation, water-supply and medical relief and to compel effectual steps to be taken to utilize the grant which Government makes for the purpose, matters will remain very much where they are.

In the circumstances, my Lord, I again take the liberty of recommending to Government that the Sanitary Board be further enlarged by the addition of some more non-official Indians with a whole-time President who should be an officer of the position of a Commissioner. It is highly desirable that gentlemen familiar with the districts or groups of districts and their respective needs and are residents therein should be added as members. Such men would have a sort of self-interest in improving the sanitation of their localities.

To the enlarged Sanitary Board thus created should be specially assigned the duty of :—

(i) advising the District Boards and Municipalities as to the drawing up of schemes for the sanitary improvement and medical relief of, and for the provision of an improved water-supply for, the areas comprised within their jurisdictions, and

(ii) subsequently advising the local bodies to give effect to any of the schemes aforesaid to which Government sanction may be accorded.

The allotments for water-supply are not fully utilised, because the District Boards generally insist on payment of one-third of the costs of re-excavation and the proprietors are generally not in position to do so. If statistics be taken, it will, I believe, be found that in only a small number of cases full costs are paid by the Boards. Then the tanks so re-excavated are neglected and no supervision is kept over them.

Silted channels require re-excavation both for irrigation and supply of drinking water, and it is a truism to say that the suitable supply of staple food grains is a check on malarial fever. The instance of the Eden Canal System is notable as showing the use of keeping up natural water courses. It is true that physical causes tend to diminish this source of water-supply. In Deltaic Bengal silt deposits in water channels are unavoidable, but art should help in keeping them up.

Sir, we were told that the District Boards and railway authorities were required to keep the side lands of the railway lines and the District Board roads in sanitary condition. How far have they done so? We have no information on the point, but any traveller will see that the side-lands are generally in as insanitary condition as ever. There is no proper supervising agency."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR said :—

"Sir,—Last year, when the Budget was introduced, we had hoped that before we resumed the discussion of the Budget of the succeeding year, the disastrous war in which our Sovereign has been forced to take part for the safety of our great empire, and for the right of existence and freedom of smaller nations would have come to an end. But our hopes have not yet been realised although we are consoled to find unmistakable signs of the approaching end of this dire conflict resulting in the glory and triumph of the British arms and her Allies. In the circumstances we must submit to the mandate of the Government of India to limit the total expenditure within the estimated revenue and not to encroach upon the Provincial balances. The estimated receipts being Rs. 6,20,04,000 and the estimated expenditure being

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

Rs. 6,17,97,000 and the balance Rs. 2,07,000 would appear, even according to the orders of the Government of India, still available for Provincial expenditure. I fail to understand why this sum should be set aside to swell the closing balance and not utilised to meet the pressing demands of the country.

Sir, I reiterate my suggestion that the Finance Committee of this Council should be made a more useful body, and that the Hon'ble Members of this Council be invited to participate more effectually in the financial administration of the country. This can be done by making the Finance Committee a Standing Committee of the Council. Without knowledge of the departmental budgets and without any insight into the affairs of Government no member of this Council, however keen and assiduous he may be in his labours to help the Government and to interpret the needs, the wants and wishes of the people, can be of much use in rendering such help. In the absence of such an insight into details, not a few items in the Budget are unintelligible and the adequacy and the inadequacy of the grants are not understood. Criticisms are therefore not unoften ill-directed and misinformed and much misunderstanding and misconception prevail. How long is this state of things to continue? How long shall we be kept on the outer fringe of the financial affairs of the country? British Government is a progressive Government. Progress is the law of life in all human affairs and I devoutly hope that the Government will, before His Excellency lays down the reins of his high office, make a distinct advance in opening a larger sphere of utility and usefulness to the Finance Committee which is at present called into being once a year to give a formal approval to a cut-and-dried statement.

Turning to the Budget itself, I find that in the closing balance of Rs. 2,60,97,000, there are some items, viz., balance of discretionary grants, balance of Imperial grants in respect of Police, Sanitation and Education which I do not quite follow. May I inquire what was the original grant and how much has been spent up to date? There are some items in the general administration such as charges for the distribution of weekly war news (Rs. 7,000), lump provision for an additional Secretary (Rs. 6,000), subscription to the Moslem Hitaishi (Rs. 9,516) which I should like explained.

Excise.

I find it is stated in paragraph 35 on the expenditure side, that miscellaneous increase under the heading Refunds and Drawbacks for 1915-16 is due to special refunds of license fees to excise shops in Calcutta. I believe it is due to the closing of some excise shops in Calcutta. If so, how many shops were closed and what amount was refunded? Or is there any other cause for the refund of license fees?

Jails.

In paragraph 46 it is stated that a lump provision of Rs. 50,000 has been made for revision of warders' establishment. Is this for the increase of salaries or for additional establishments? If for the former what is the increase contemplated? A sum of Rs. 25,000 is put down for temporary accommodation to meet the overcrowded conditions in several jails. I do not know whether this sum is sufficient; if so, may I inquire what is the sort of accommodation to be provided and in how many jails?

Police.

I welcome the increased allotment to the Presidency police, to the additional European police in the trading quarters of Calcutta and the creation of a third armed company. I do not grudge any legitimate expenditure in strengthening the police, having regard to the exceptional situation in which we are placed. May I inquire why the grant for village police which was Rs. 27,000 in the revised estimate of 1915-16 is put down at Rs. 6,000 in the year 1916-17? In connection with the police I should like to say a few

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

words. The police, notwithstanding all its faults, requires the moral support of all true well-wishers of the country. There are good men as well as bad in the police—bad men who bring the administration into contempt and alienate the feelings and sympathy of the people. For some years past, the Government have been awakened to the evils wrought by these men. They appointed commissions, they have made inquiries, and one thing has come out most prominently as the result of these inquiries and investigations and that is the necessity for larger employment of educated young men of respectable families and enhancement of their prospects on a par with their European brethren in the service. What has been done in that direction? What is the maximum pay and emoluments to which the Indian officers can aspire and how many in the whole service have been promoted to that pay? As Orientals, we are no doubt flattered and honoured to receive Rai Sahibs and Rai Bahadurs and *khelats* and presentations, but we want substantial openings for our countrymen in the higher grades of the service on the same terms with the Europeans. I am proud to say that our countrymen can show by their devotion, loyalty and sacrifice that they deserve as much consideration as their European *confrères* in the service. I am proud to say such men are not rare in the police service. Some of them have given their lives and many of them, whom I know personally, are prepared to die for the Government and the people whom they are commissioned to protect. I pray that the Government will be pleased to popularise the police service in the country and to attract the best men and the best talents. In this connection, may I inquire what is the result of the deputation of Mr. Gourlay on special duty? I hope Government will take the people into their confidence soon.

Education.

Much has been said on education; much will be said on education by several members; but I wish to return to my annual cry for improvement of primary education. I find last year that the Budget Grant on primary education was reduced from Rs. 9,25,000 to Rs. 1,32,000. May I inquire what is the cause of this great reduction? Again Rs. 9,25,000 is entered in this year's Budget; I do not know whether it will vanish in the revised estimate. Will the public be favoured with some details as to how the money is proposed to be spent? Similarly with regard to female education only a paltry sum of Rs. 30,000 has been budgeted. Last year the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction stated that as regards primary education as a whole he was 'profoundly dissatisfied.' He said he had deputed two of his best officers to study the conditions, to survey the problem and to put forward practical proposals and at a later stage he intended to ask the Government to appoint a Committee to consider the whole question. May I inquire what progress has been made?

The Hon'ble Mr. Hornell last year remonstrated against the suggestion of some members that more money is spent on inspections than on actual work. Like my Hon'ble friend the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University I could, while acknowledging the value of direction and inspection in the field of education, like to know how much was spent on the inspectable commodity as compared with the cost of direction and inspection. I know the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell is sincerely anxious to place primary education on a firm and satisfactory basis. I fully appreciate the good work of some of the inspecting officers, but I am afraid the wheel of progress is moving very slowly. In connection with Calcutta, I moved in this Council last year for a special grant. From my personal knowledge, I know that the state of affairs in Calcutta is simply deplorable. Over and over again have I urged both in the Council and elsewhere for a thorough overhauling of the system of primary education in Calcutta. The want of money was the stumbling block in the way. The Calcutta Municipality cannot spend money on education. They are creatures of statute. They have their statutory functions

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

and their statutory funds. Unlike Bombay they have not got the excise duty, the tobacco tax and the octroi duty in addition to rates and taxes at their disposal. The grant of a few rupees to some of the *pathsalas*, which grant now amounts to nearly Rs. 80,000, is the outcome of an appeal of Sir Gurudas Banerjee in the Bengal Council for continuance of the grant of their Rs. 3,000 to the *pathsala* of the then Suburban Municipalities which was then about to be amalgamated with Calcutta. A single line was inserted in the Act, giving discretion to the Corporation to make grants for the promotion of primary and technical education; and to-day the grant nearly amounts to Rs. 80,000. The Government must come to the rescue of primary education in Calcutta. The recent report of Mr. J. N. Roy, who took up the work of inspection of *pathsalas* and schools in Calcutta from my Hon'ble friend Mr. De, whose notes are full and interesting, show that proper facilities do not exist for education of the boys of the poorer and middle class. As regards the habitations, Mr. Roy almost echoes what I said last year and what I have often said. I quote Mr. Roy's words—'An ill-lighted and ill-ventilated room in a private *pucca* house, or an equally objectionable room but with a tiled roof; a number of boys huddled together sitting in some cases, on benches and in some, on the floor, but all alike, shouting at the top of their voices; a *guru*, uneducated and untrained, but determined to eke out a living for himself, dozing at the desk—this is the picture of an ordinary primary school.' Can anybody dream that in such habitations and in such environment and under such instructors education can develop, and young boys can be brought up with a healthy mind and a healthy body?

Turning to female education, I again voice the disappointment of my community that nothing has yet been practically done to solve the problem of female education in the Province. I am directly interested in Calcutta. Although, there are certain well-constructed girls' schools here in the city, which serve the purpose of high education, there is, as the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell admitted last year, a 'lamentable lack of proper primary and middle schools for the orthodox class.' I feel a sense of despair at the prospect of realising the hope that substantial advance will be made in our generation to afford facilities for their education. Last year, the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell said: 'I agree with the Hon'ble Member in thinking that the question of the position of schools for the lower and middle class of girls in Calcutta is one of great urgency and importance.' Some ray of hope is raised in our mind by this true appreciation of the position of female education in Calcutta by the Hon'ble Director, but 'hope deferred maketh the heart sick.' Mr. Roy in his report states that the facilities for education of Hindu girls are 'extremely limited' and no systematic effort has yet been made to bring education 'within the reach of all, whether they belong to the higher or the lower caste.'

There are some very excellent Mission schools in Calcutta, but they do not meet the wants of the orthodox class who form the bulk of the population. I find one of them has secured a grant of Rs. 60,000 from the Government for the construction of a new building. I wonder why Government cannot provide funds for the orthodox institutions such as the *Mahakali Pathsala* and others which are pining away for want of funds. What is wanted in Calcutta and in this Province are as many Girls' Schools as possible where our girls from the age of 7 to 14 may have a well-grounded primary education which in many cases may be continued by zenana teachers properly trained, instructed and educated. Many families would be glad to employ such teachers who are not now available. Last year Rs. 1,000 was set apart for Zenana education and Rs. 2,200 for Primary Girls' School in Calcutta. It will be admitted that these were very miserable sums. May I inquire what has been set aside this year? Last year the Government had appointed a Committee of Hindu ladies and gentlemen to consider the question of education of Indian girls whose parents desire that

their daughters should be well educated without any interference with the traditions of their religion or custom. It would be interesting to know whether any practical result has emerged from the deliberations of the Committee.

Malaria.

Sir, the exhortation of the 'Chancellor of the Exchequer' to curb our demands for more money has not sealed the lips of the non-official members of the Council. Malaria stalks over the fairest districts of Bengal, carrying away hundreds of thousands of people in its grip and enfeebling the rest of the population. It is no less devastating than the great European War. Upwards of 72 per cent. of the general death-rate is due to fever. The Government, both Imperial and Provincial, I am grateful to say, recognise this fact. There is the Malaria Committee of which my Hon'ble friend Dr. Nilratan Sarkar is an expert member. We are not privileged to see the proceedings of the Committee, but I hope the Government will see its way to make them public. If there is any Committee whose proceedings are awaited with interest it is this all-important Committee. The despondent tone of the Hon'ble Dr. Sarkar seems to connote that there is much divergence of views and no progress in active work. Quinine is no doubt the great germicide of malaria and for the distribution of which some active measures seem to have been taken. But how long will the quinine-eating population of Bengal thrive and prosper? It will be admitted by the commonest layman that the true protection of the people lies in the eradication of the evil by sanitary measures than to keep alive the population by the administration of quinine. I ask what measures have been taken in that direction? I am a layman, but I am much struck by the result of the excellent Magra Hât Drainage Scheme, which not only converted a swamp of two hundred and ninety-four square miles into smiling fields, rich with crop valued at Rs. 34,00,000 and Rs. 40,000 or at least twice the cost of the scheme, but converted the fever-stricken area into a health resort. Naturally people are more anxious for proper drainage and jungle clearance of the affected area. May I inquire whether jungle cutting, which is a recognised beneficial measure, is definitely discarded. The outskirts of Calcutta are malaria-stricken. They are a standing menace to the city. What has been done to improve the sanitary condition of the area? Was there not a scheme under preparation for water-supply to the riparian municipalities extending from Baranagore to Naihati? What has become of it? I find in the Budget Rs. 5,000 is entered on account of the charges for gratuitous relief to the malaria-stricken areas. May I be permitted to inquire what area is taken into account and what sort of relief would be given. Again Rs. 12,500 is included for anti-malarial operations conducted by the Sanitary Commissioner. It would be interesting to note what are the operations and in what districts. The sums I have so far quoted are very small. I have my eyes on the lump grant of Rs. 2,50,000 for sanitation which I devoutly hope will increase to at least double the sum in the revised estimate at the end of the year. But the year will soon pass away and if no vigorous steps are taken at once the amount, or a large portion of it, will inevitably lapse. Some indication of the steps that are to be taken to spend a substantial sum not less than the sum I have stated will, I hope, be given in this Council.

Industries.

I now turn to the industries. A sum of one lakh has been budgeted for expenditure on the development of industries. I welcome it and thank the Government. The industrial development of the country is one of the crying needs of our Province and it is our fondest hope that the Government will take their proper share in the work. Much depends upon the selection of a proper

Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.

person for the post of the Director of Industries for whom Rs. 30,000 has been separately provided. The Government should abandon the attitude of *laissez faire* and should actively promote the industries. Industries can roughly be divided into power industries, handicrafts and agriculture. In the present circumstances of our country, all these branches demand equal attention. For the middle class people, power industries and for the lower classes, handicraft or agriculture or both. The small industries are specially suited to the poorer middle classes. They cannot make larger initial outlay and they are without the requisite capacity and knowledge of large organisation. They, of all people, require the greatest help of the Government. Our handicrafts are slowly but surely losing ground. Many have disappeared completely from the field. The poorer class of people are generally more and more dependent on agriculture; but land is limited and population is increasing. Land can no longer maintain the growing numbers of the people, and again agriculture is not always a sure and stable source. A single year's failure of crops exposes the people to severe distress. I venture, therefore, to ask the Government what steps they propose to take for the resuscitation and encouragement of those industries. I am greatful to acknowledge that Government have been doing a good deal for the development of agriculture. The Indian agriculturist is a poor and conservative man. But if the utility of the new and improved method is demonstrated under the eyes of the agriculturist nearer his home he will readily take to it. I am not aware whether this sort of demonstration has been tried on a large scale. The District Administration Committee have recommended the appointment of more European Deputy Directors for demonstration work. Some European expert advisers may be necessary; but it will be a mistake not to entrust the major portion of the actual demonstration work to Indians. An Indian Officer will succeed better in this department of work than an European Officer."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR said :—

"Sir,—In rising perhaps for the last time from my seat in this chamber, I am filled with thoughts which carry me back to the early days of my association with the Provincial Council of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and which raise memories of events which have left lasting impressions on the minds of my community and the people of Eastern Bengal in general. The partition of Bengal in 1905 gave to the people of the eastern districts an administration, whose primary consideration was the welfare of a people who had till then been the neglected units of an unwieldy provincial administration. Before, however, the authorities in Eastern Bengal could accomplish even a fraction of all that the anxious solicitude of a beneficient administration desired to accomplish in the interest of a just and equitable Government, its life was cut short. The legacies that the defunct Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam bequeathed to His Excellency were mostly those of undischarged obligations, aspirations unfulfilled, ambitions roused in our breasts but left unrealised, and promises which mostly remain yet to be carried out. And when the new Presidency was constituted the authorities so cast their plan of administration as would ensure to the helpless people of Eastern Bengal at least a partial realisation of their legitimate dues.

THE SECOND CAPITAL.

Sir, it was ordained that in order to prevent Eastern Bengal from slipping back into the shade of neglect. His Excellency's Government would regard Dacca as the second capital, or, in the words of the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell 'The Eastern Capital', of the Presidency in the truest sense of the term. The intention of the authorities in Whitehall and Simla was expressed in unambiguous language, and the declaration was embalmed

Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.

in historic despatches, sanctified by Parliamentary pronouncements, acquiesced in and approved by His Excellency in more than one public utterance. Now that the flush of excitement and enthusiasm has subsided, I make bold to ask His Excellency to go through all the various documents and declarations made from time to time, and to say how the pious resolutions embodied therein have been remembered in execution. Is Dacca really the second capital to-day? Far from this being so, we find that this so-called eastern capital is being gradually relegated to the cold shade of neglect and far from boasting of more institutions and offices of Government, like Lucknow and Poona, the second capitals of two sister provinces, Dacca is being gradually deprived of her vestiges of importance. The Dacca University Committee had recommended the raising of the Engineering School at Dacca to the status of a college and the establishment of an industrial institute. A later committee also recommended the removal of the Engineering College at Sibpur to Dacca. But to our misfortune, instead of all this the school at Dacca had its limbs, like the Survey classes and the Electrical and Mechanical sections, shorn off. And we have seen that the removal of the Survey classes has resulted in an enormous increase of recurring expenditure from Rs. 2,600 to about Rs. 20,000, and a steady and remarkable decline in the average number of students from 125 to about 30. Another useful institution, the Bacteriological Laboratory, has also been abolished.

Sir, I plead for a more sympathetic consideration of the claims of Eastern Bengal, so that promises made to the ear may not be broken to the heart; and I earnestly appeal to His Excellency not to yield to forces which have ever militated against a proper recognition of the claims of Dacca and Eastern Bengal, and had long kept us from our own.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

Dacca University.—Sir, if the interests of the people of Eastern Bengal as a whole were being well looked after by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, those of Moslems, who form the bulk of the population, were naturally safeguarded under its fostering care. And when that administration ceased to exist my community became apprehensive lest their interests would be neglected for want of careful and sympathetic consideration under altered circumstances. I am prepared to admit that the authorities responsible for bringing about the new state of things did not overlook the necessity of making some reparation, however inadequate, for the loss sustained by Eastern Bengal. By making Dacca the second capital they thought they had well assured to the people of Eastern Bengal a proper share of the attention of Government and its patronage. And for the purpose of securing to them a continuance of the liberal policy in the matter of education, the most marked feature of the late Government of Eastern Bengal they proposed, among other things, the formation of a University at Dacca with a special faculty of Islamic studies which would minister to the needs of higher education among the Muhammadan community. Although the scheme has passed through the ordeal of official scrutiny, has even been stated to have received the necessary final touches in Whitehall and has also been mentioned in successive financial statements at Delhi and Calcutta, we have yet to live in the hope of its fruition in the dim future. Sir, I quite realize that the Dacca University scheme has had to be shelved on account of the financial *impasse* brought about by the present war, which we deplore; but when we look around and find contemporaneous schemes faring better elsewhere, when we see that the young province of Bihar and Orissa has already got a full-fledged High Court, we begin to believe that much time has been wasted in piloting the Dacca University scheme through the inevitable tangle of red tape. Even if the recommendations of the Dacca University Committee could be given effect to piecemeal, by starting individual institutions, there would have been less cause for complaint. I trust that before His Excellency lays down the reins of his exalted office, His Excellency will be pleased to

make some beginning in this direction as a solace to the wounded feelings of my community.

The Muhammadan Hall and College.—As His Excellency is aware, the Muhammadan community is lamentably backward in higher education. We have repeatedly knocked at the door of His Excellency's Government for liberal provisions in its aid, which alone can make it possible for my community to take more kindly to higher education. We do not lag behind in the expression of our gratitude for the consideration that we have received from time to time at His Excellency's hands; but I would humbly remind His Excellency that much yet remains to be done in this direction, and that most of the promises made by Government in this regard remain unredeemed. The earliest pledge given to us by the Eastern Bengal Government was that of a Muhammadan Hall. The parting words of kindness of Sir Charles Bayley to the Moslem community of Eastern Bengal, as he laid the foundation stone of the Muhammadan Hall at Dacca, are still ringing in my ears. I was associated with the proposal from its very inception, and was led to regard its completion as a positive certainty. But soon afterwards the Dacca University Scheme came up, and with it the scheme of a Muhammadan College with an attached Hostel. This Muhammadan Hall was then taken as the Hostel attached to the proposed Muhammadan College. Misfortune did not spare us here also. With the shelving of the University Scheme the Muhammadan Hall, which was practically given to us, has also been knocked on the head. I may tell His Excellency that the Muhammadan Hall was given to us to allay our grievances against the poor accommodation given to our boys in the Dacca College Hostel. We had grievances which we did not press owing to the relief given to us; but the abandonment of the hall has made the position of our boys in the said Dacca College Hostel worse.

Sir, the history of the Arts Colleges for Muhammadans at Calcutta and Dacca is likewise full of disappointment. When the finances of the Government were in a satisfactory condition, the necessary will to carry out those promises seems to have been wanting; and now that we are passing through financial embarrassment, the schemes have perforce to be deferred. But I hope that the present crisis will not last long, and we will soon have funds that will enable us to see these schemes through.

MUHAMMADAN EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Sir, among the many recommendations made by the Muhammadan Education Advisory Committee, which His Excellency was pleased to appoint on my suggestion, there are several which involve no expenditure. I trust such recommendations will be given effect to immediately, and if we are assured of the execution of the others that involve finance, after the restoration of normal conditions, my community will be grateful to His Excellency and patiently wait for them. The report of the Advisory Committee contains a comprehensive Scheme of measures, the successful execution of which will aid in a more extended and systematic promotion of Moslem education and result in the intellectual elevation of my community. If His Excellency's Government adopt the report of the Committee in its entirety, it will rank as a Magna Charta of Moslem Education, and confer substantial benefits on my community, open new avenues and guarantee new privileges. The Muhammadan Community therefore looks forward to the decision of Government with intense anxiety.

EDUCATION IN EASTERN BENGAL.

Sir, we flatter ourselves that the people of Eastern Bengal, particularly the Moslem community, made rapid strides in education, between the years 1906 and 1911. And if the Council will bear with me a little I shall try to examine how far we have progressed in this matter, and if the rate of progress has been uniformly maintained up to date.

Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.

In the three Eastern divisions of the Presidency, the percentage of children actually at school to the number of children of school-going age was 18·3 in 1906-07 and rose to be 21·6 in 1911-12, which, however, is behind the corresponding figure for Western Bengal, the latter being much nearer 30·0. During this period the percentage of increase in the number of pupils was 31·7 in the case of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and 26·9 in that of Bengal, and 25·8 for all India; and at the end of this quinquennium the percentage of total population at school was 2·9 in Bengal and 3·1 in Eastern Bengal and Assam and 2·7 for all India. During the same period the percentage of increase in the total amount spent upon education from all sources was 47·6 in Bengal, 57·1 in Eastern Bengal and Assam, and 40·6 in all India. Then taking the increase of expenditure from Public Funds alone, we find that the percentages of increase were 39·5 in Bengal, 59·6 in Eastern Bengal and Assam, and 36·8 in all India. In 1906-07 in Eastern Bengal and Assam there were about 8 lakhs of scholars in institutions of all kinds, of which 35·7 per cent. were Hindus and 50·2 per cent. Moslems; and in the year 1911-12 the total number of scholars was 10¾ lakhs, of which Hindus formed 42·5 per cent. and Moslems 53·5 per cent. The rate of increase in these five years was 41·5 per cent. in the case of Moslems and 26·02 per cent. in the case of Hindus. The progress, satisfactory as it has been, does not carry us near 50 per cent., which is approximately the figure representing the increase in the number of Muhammadan pupils in all India. I would in this connection draw His Excellency's attention to the fact that in 1911-12 the percentage of Muhammadans at school to the total school-going population in the whole of India was given as 22·9, which was in excess of the proportion of Moslems to the whole Indian population, which is 22·7 per cent. But what are the figures for the Bengal Presidency? The Moslem subjects in His Excellency's charge represent 52·7 per cent. of the total population of Bengal. And we find that in 1912 the total Muhammadan school-going population in the entire Presidency was 42·8 per cent. of the total school-going population of all creeds. Taking the figures separately for Eastern Bengal and Western Bengal, we find that in Eastern Bengal Moslem population is 66·3 per cent. of the total population, while the Moslem school-going population is 58·6 per cent. of the total school-going population; and Western Bengal Moslem population is 31·9 per cent., Moslem school-going population being 23·7 per cent.

I have already observed that during the *régime* of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government the rate of progress was much higher in the case of Moslems than in the case of their fellow subjects. But has the same rate been maintained? The answer to this has been furnished by the Director of Public Instruction in his report for 1913-14 in the following words:—'The progress made by Muhammadans is very slight, and shows that the rate of increase of the Muhammadans in educational institutions is not much greater than that of the Hindus. . . . . It could not be expected that the rate of increase in the case of Muhammadans would continue for an indefinite period to be more rapid than the rate of increase in the case of Hindus.' Sir, this remark made just one year after the formation of the Presidency would lead one to suppose that the Moslems have had a surfeit of education and their progress in this department would henceforth be just commensurate with the general rate of progress. In successive reports on education the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam congratulated the Moslem community on their marvellous rate of progress; and is it a mere coincidence that instead of leading the other communities as they were so long doing, they have fallen into line with them in point of progress just with the formation of the Bengal Presidency? And then, Sir, what has been this general rate of progress in the Bengal Presidency? Between the years 1912-13 and 1913-14 the percentage of increase in the number of pupils of all grades has been 1·7 in the Bengal Presidency, which is bracketed with Bihar and Orissa for the lowest place among all the Indian provinces. The percentage of increase, which is 5

Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.

for all India, varies from 15·5 in the N.-W. Frontier Province to 4 in the Punjab. Even Assam returns 10·7, indicating that perhaps she has succeeded in keeping up the educational progress of the defunct province of which she at one time formed a part. Taking progress under Primary Education as a test, we are confronted with the ugly fact that in spite of very large grants made of late years there was a sudden drop in 1912-13 in the number of boys' schools and scholars in the Bengal Presidency; and, further, that in two subsequent years the number of boys' schools as well as the number of pupils have shown a decline. In fact, the Bengal Presidency is the only province in the whole of India to-day to show a falling off in the number of boys' primary schools and scholars, while all the other provinces return a substantial increase.

Sir, the three Eastern Bengal divisions constitute about three-fifths of the area of the Presidency, and contribute about the same proportion to the population. But in point of literacy, the two Western Bengal divisions give us a long lead with over hundred of literates per thousand of population, while the Dacca and Chittagong divisions return 66 and Rajshahi 53 per thousand. Greater and determined effort should therefore be made to break down the dense mass of illiteracy in Eastern Bengal, and special measures should be devised by His Excellency's Government for greater diffusion of education in this area. On further analysing the figures we find that while in Western Bengal there is one boys' primary school to every 2½ square miles, in the case of Eastern Bengal, after a period of phenomenal progress, there is to-day one such school to every 3 square miles.

Sir, the educational authorities have no doubt taken in hand the improvement of the existing institutions with great zeal, and this circumstance explains the fact that the yearly increasing expenditure under education does not give us in return the expected degree of expansion and increase in number. I verily believe that in educational expenses the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam used to manage to make the rupee go much further than we can at present. In the year 1911, in a resolution, the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam made the following declaration—'It must always be remembered that rudimentary and imperfect education is better than none at all and, while the improvement of schools and the removal of children from bad schools to good ones are most desirable objects, care must be taken not to lead children wholly without means of obtaining elementary education.' Sir, this was a declaration of policy which might not find favour with some of our educational authorities, but which commends itself to the Indian section of this house. I have been one of those who had advocated the improvement in the conditions of our schools, but at the same time I feel that at such a time when our finances are at a low ebb, His Excellency's Government should consider if it is too late for them to adopt this principle of a Government which found it possible to accomplish so much within the compass of a short time.

Facilities for Muhammadan Education.

Sir, for the last three years we have been making heavy demands on His Excellency's attention and kindness. And I shall be wanting in my duty towards His Excellency personally and to the Hon'ble Members in charge, if I do not take this opportunity of placing on record the grateful appreciation of my community for the facilities given to them in the matter of education since the creation of the Presidency. To enumerate the principal among them, the appointment of an Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education, as also of an Assistant Inspector for Muhammadan Education in each of the five divisions, the appointment of an Assistant Inspectress of Schools for Muhammadan Education in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, the grants-in-aid to Madrassas under the Madrassa Reform Scheme, the earmarking of the Mohsin Fund exclusively for scholarships and stipends, etc., and the maintenance of Government Madrassas entirely out

Babu Surendra Nath Roy.

of public funds, the establishment of the Moslem Hostel for College students at Wellington Street, the setting apart of a decent sum from the Imperial grants for the education of Muhammadan girls, acquisition of land for the Anglo-Persian Department of the Calcutta Madrassa in connexion with the establishment of the Muhammadan Arts College, Calcutta, the extension of the Baker Hostel which has been taken in hand, and the acquisition of land for a non-Collegiate Muhammadan Hostel under the University, and reserving 20 per cent. of the seats in private colleges and hostels in Calcutta as a condition of the grant made to them: these constitute acts which my community consider to be the earnest of further facilities to come in the near future. I have to add a word of thanks to the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell, in whom we have found a true friend to Muhammadan education.

Sir, I have very reluctantly trespassed upon the indulgence of this Council a great deal to-day, but the pressing importance of the subjects I have dealt with is my excuse. I might have been a little free with my thoughts, but as a responsible member of this Council I feel I have only tried to do my duty.

Before I conclude, perhaps my last words in this house, I wish to impress upon His Excellency and His Excellency's Government the unimpeachable loyalty of my community, loyalty to the person and throne of His Majesty the King-Emperor, and to make perhaps the last request to His Excellency to stand by the promises to Eastern Bengal and to my unfortunate co-religionists."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY on the Budget of 1916-17 said :—

"Sir,—It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department for the lucid way in which the Budget proposals for the year 1916-17 have been presented to the Council. The pleasure would have been greater if I could have congratulated him on the appropriations of revenue to the different requirements of the Presidency. The depreciation in Revenue, coupled with large expenditure in the Police and in the working of the Defence of India Act, have left very little for expenditure in the improvement of sanitation and in the education of the people. The orders of the Government of India to avoid incurring all expenditure which could possibly be postponed have been followed in the main and there is very little left to remark with respect to the proposals.

I am glad that the Government have appointed an additional Legal Remembrancer. The large number of failures in Government prosecutions, in what are known as political cases, and the amount of expenditure incurred, in these cases, would lead one to suppose that Government have not had the best advice in these cases, and if the new appointment results in more careful and rigorous examination of evidence before these prosecutions are undertaken it will fully justify its creation.

On page 4, paragraph 9, of the Revised Financial Statement, it is stated that an additional grant of Rs. 2,23,000 from Provincial Revenues has been provided in the charges for 1916-17 for the Calcutta University, while on page 52 of the statement Rs. 1,15,000 have only been provided for the Calcutta University. It is not clear whether Rs. 2,23,000 are in addition to the amount of Rs. 1,15,000 already provided. The Calcutta University is in urgent need of money for the completion of its Science College and an additional grant of Rs. 2,23,000 will certainly enable the University to put the Science College on a proper basis.

I am glad to see that provision for creating a spill from the Bidyadhari river has been made in the Budget for 1916-17. If what the Engineers say be correct, this is a matter vitally affecting the citizens of Calcutta. Another danger to the people of Calcutta and the neighbouring places is the Tolly's *nulla*. The condition of the *nulla* is most unsatisfactory. The water is unwholesome. Not only large number of pilgrims come to Kalighat now and

then from distant parts of this Presidency as a place of pilgrimage and bathe in its water but drink the same. There is therefore always the danger of an outbreak of cholera among the pilgrims, and of such an outbreak spreading throughout the neighbourhood of Kalighat. Suggestions for the improvement of the *nulla* have been before Government on previous occasions and the question has come up before them in one shape or other for a long time past, and I earnestly beg your lordship's Government to take up the matter in hand as early as practicable.

The grants to sanitation from the lump provision for sanitation in 1915-16 include the item of Rs. 10,200 as contribution to the Chittagong Municipality to meet the pay of its European Engineer-Secretary. I am not aware if it is the practice of Government to contribute towards the pay of Secretaries to municipalities and whether any such grant is made to any other municipality in the Presidency. I think a contribution to the pay of a Secretary to a municipality is not a proper charge, from sums expressly set apart by the Government for sanitary purposes.

This brings us to the question of the constitution of the Sanitary Board. It is now only an Advisory Board. In the United Provinces it is an administrative body. Bengal is admittedly the most advanced of the Provincial Governments in India. We are sorry that it should remain behind in this respect and should have to take lessons from the Government of a less enlightened Province.

A sum of Rs. 2,50,000 has been set apart for the improvement of sanitation. The amount is very small compared with the needs of this Presidency. We require good drinking water in every district, in every mufassal town. A large number of sanitary projects—projects for the supply of good drinking water and improved drainage have been recommended by the Sanitary Board to the Government. But they cannot be undertaken on account of want of funds. But there is one project which I would very much like the Government to take up at once. It is the project for supplying filtered water to the people of the town of Krishnagore in the district of Nadia. The project is cut and dry. It is a matured scheme. It remains for the Government to allow some money out of this grant and the work can begin at once.

I also urge upon the Government the necessity for anti-malarial measures being undertaken in the district of Nadia without further delay. In reply to the address presented to His Excellency on the 30th August last, by the people of Nadia, his lordship was pleased to refer to the questions I had asked in the Council about the high mortality in the district from malaria in the latter part of 1914. It is not necessary for me to place the facts again before the Government, because they are well known. His lordship was also pleased to say in reply, 'the fight against malaria is a hard one, and an uphill one, and one result of the disease, perhaps the saddest result, is that it makes the people apathetic, and renders them less able to struggle against a cure.' I would therefore humbly and respectfully ask that steps be taken to put a stop to this state of things in the district by making the necessary grants for the supply of filtered water in the town of Krishnagore, the head-quarters of the district, and for the undertaking of anti-malarial measures within the district without further delay.

Provision has been made for 13 Judges for the Calcutta High Court in the place of 19 Judges which was the strength of the High Court till February of this year on account of the establishment of the High Court at Patna. There has therefore been a reduction in the expenditure in the Calcutta High Court and consequently on the head "Justice" by about four lakhs of rupees not only on account of the reduction in the number of Judges but also on account of removal of part of the establishment. We must, however, take into account the consequent reduction in the income on the head "Justice" owing to less number of appeals being filed in the Appellate Side of the Calcutta High Court. The total decrease in the income would never come to more than Rs. 73,000. One would have very much

Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur.

liked to see a portion of the money thus saved spent for the purpose of increasing the initial pay of "Munsifs", for which my hon'ble friend Mr. Fazl-ul Huq moved a Resolution the other day in the Council and for which I urged Government last year. But unfortunately nothing has been done. Such increase in the pay of these judicial officers would have been money well spent.

We are glad that there is a grant of Rs. 2,25,000 for gratuitous relief. We hope and trust Government will spend the amount in relieving the distress in Bankura. The relief afforded by private parties or organised bodies supplemented by Government aid has done much to alleviate the sufferings of the people there, but harrowing tales of distress are still coming every day to us from that district and the number seeking relief is gradually increasing. Unless these relieving bodies get substantial help from Government they cannot be expected to cope with the dire calamity which has visited the district.

The announcement of a grant of one lakh of rupees for the purpose of industrial development and Rs. 30,000 for a Director of Industries and his establishment will be welcomed by all. It is not shown how the money on the industrial development is to be utilised, but the grant shows that the Government are in earnest about the matter.

We find in page 19 of the Financial Statement that there is a grant of Rs. 12,017 to the Calcutta Corporation for drainage of the fringe area and Rs. 5,400 for experiment on the sewage of Calcutta. The Calcutta Corporation with its income of more than a crore of rupees and which income is increasing by leaps and bounds every day is not in need of these precarious grants from Government. Payment of these amounts to mufassal municipalities or for the improvement of malaria-stricken districts would be productive of lasting benefit and real help to them."

The Hon'ble **MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA** of Nashipur :—

"Sir,—Owing to war there has been a general retrenchment in all directions and under the orders of the Government of India the provincial Governments have to limit their expenditure within their normal income, and so the balance after meeting the expenditure is Rs. 2,70,000. but, Sir, I find that under the head expenditure there appears some items which cannot be considered to be normal expenditure and, such as a non-recurring grant for Police, Rs. 1,58,070, non-recurring Education grant to the Calcutta University. If we exclude this expenditure the total saving would have been Rs. 4,86,000. This is too small to suggest any expenditure on any important subject. Sir, we appreciate very much the privilege given to the non-official members to move resolutions on the budget, but for want of figures and detailed accounts of the previous year, and a departmental budget, I think it is next to impossible for any non-official member, even I should think for an official member not connected with the Financial Department, to move any resolution on the budget which may be acceptable to the Hon'ble member in charge of finance, and so I must earnestly appeal to the Government to consider this matter so that in future years the non-official members may be supplied with the detailed accounts of the previous years and copies of the departmental budgets approved by the Government before they are asked to move a resolution or to discuss the budget. I may here mention that the non-official members of the Imperial Council are allowed to have copies of the detailed accounts of the previous years just as they are published, and so they are in a better position to go into the details of the items on which the Government spend public revenue. Then, Sir, as regards the question of sanitation, it is a well known fact that the people from the mufassal are leaving their ancestral homes and settling in towns. The reason is that every year the people suffer very much on account of malaria and other diseases such as cholera and small-pox. Soon after the assump-

tion of the exalted office by His Excellency his attention was drawn to the most important subject of the supply of pure drinking water to rural areas, and I think that, within six months of his assuming charge of his office, he held a conference at Darjeeling to consider the subject and I had the honour of attending the same. We had no idea then that the District Boards would be provided with an extra amount for the purpose of sanitation. At that time of course we were put to great difficulty to provide funds to meet this extra charge, but we were unanimous that the District Boards should be asked to expend more money for rural water-supply. A few months after this the Government of India announced that the entire revenue of the public works cess was to be surrendered to the District Boards, and from the Government of India's letter to the Local Governments it appears that the Government of India have left the matter entirely in the hands of the Local Government to determine for what specific purposes this extra income should be spent, but stated that a substantial portion of that income should be spent for rural water-supply and sanitation. I would point out that in 1913-14 the District Boards of Bengal had an income of Rs. 29,36,700 but they spent only Rs. 4,78,373 for sanitation. And in the year 1914-15 they had Rs. 30,72,000 but spent only Rs. 7,66,463, so that it appears that out of the Rs. 60.63,000 they spent only 12 lakhs for the purpose of sanitation. Certainly it cannot be said that they spent a substantial portion of that income on sanitation. On the 22nd of February this year I moved a resolution in the Imperial Council on this very subject and the Government of India accepted that resolution, and probably have drawn the attention of all the Local Governments in the matter that a substantial portion of this income should be set apart for rural water-supply and for sanitary purposes. When this grant was made by the Government of India my hon'ble friend, the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul Huda, held a conference in all important places and also in Calcutta and invited the leading men of all the districts to consider in what way this money should be spent, and as far as I remember we were unanimous that a certain portion of that sum should be spent for the supply of good drinking water in the mufassal and I understand that our Government were anxious to have an amendment of the Road Cess Act to give effect to that desire ; but I cannot make out why the matter has been dropped. I was rather disappointed to hear in reply to my question from the Hon'ble Mr. De that the Government of Bengal do not like at present to give any further instructions to the District Boards in this respect, but, unless this money be spent for rural water-supply, I am afraid the growing want of the people in this respect will remain as it is now. As regards the municipalities, the case is very different. There are many municipal towns who cannot afford to spend money even for the purpose of the proper conservancy of the town, much less can they spend anything for water-supply and drainage schemes. Their incomes are generally limited and they have no other sources, such as the District Boards have got from the Government of India, to spend upon this important object. I find that Rs. 55,20,000 has been set apart for sanitation and will not be spent till the war is over and we have also got Rs. 69,70,000 as a discretionary grant which can be used for any purposes which His Excellency thinks proper, and over and above these two items Rs. 19,27,000 is also said to be a free balance which can be spent as occasion demands. So we have Rs. 81,45,000 which we could spend in normal times and if a greater portion of this amount be spent for the purpose of water-supply in municipal towns, I think, we can make material progress in that respect. Sir, we are grateful to the Government for taking non-official members in the Sanitary Board, and I agree with my hon'ble friend, the Hon'ble Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur, that the Government should take more non-officials into that Body ; but I would venture to suggest that some power, some financial authority should be vested in that Body as the increase of power generally increases responsibility, and unless and until that Body has got any real power of spending money or sanctioning schemes, however small they may be, I am afraid that that Body cannot properly discharge its responsibilities. Sir, the year before last I ventured to suggest something in regard to the spread of zanana education. There is little difference

between the words zanana education and female education. The meaning is the same. According to the custom prevalent in our country, girls get married at a very tender age and they are taken away from the schools just as they are beginning to learn, at the ages of 14 or 15. Apart from the collegiate education, I am afraid the primary education of the girls is not progressing as one would expect. Unless there is some provision made to teach them at their homes, or in some central place where even after their marriage they can assemble, and where their purdah will be respected. I am afraid female education will remain as backward as ever. We all welcome the Government of India's letter on this subject, I mean Sir Edward Maclagan's letter to all Local Governments, for giving more facilities to female education, and I hope my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell will work out some scheme so as to give effect to it, and I hope he will give more attention to the spread of zanana education, which is so essential for the improvement of female education in this country.

Sir, I cannot but express my gratefulness to the Government for providing Rs. 15,000 for the dredging of the river Bhagirathi. For the last three years Government have been spending money every year, but I am sorry to say that we do not find any appreciable improvement in the flow of the river. I think the small expenditure will not serve to make any effective improvement. However, the Government are better judges of the matter, and I would leave it to the Government for consideration what steps should be taken in dredging the mouth of the river in such a way so that the flow might continue during the summer and winter, as now we find that the water becomes stagnant, which is very injurious to public health.

I beg to conclude by making one observation as regards industries. We are thankful for the provision of a lakh of rupees for the improvement of industries and for the appointment of a Director of Industries. There will be a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject, and I am glad to find that the Hon'ble Mr. Stewart and Sir Rajendra Mookerjee from Bengal have been appointed to sit on that Commission and I have no doubt that good results will come from it. The question is very important and everyone will take a lively interest in it. I would suggest to the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department to provide more funds for the improvement of industries.'

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY said :—

" Sir, at this stage of the discussion I do not think I can add any useful criticism to the Budget as a whole, but if I venture to take up the time of the Council for a few minutes, it is because I wish to emphasise a point to which reference has been made by two hon'ble members already. The most important stage of the discussion, the consideration of the financial statement presented to this Council, where the non-official members can be of any use, is the stage at which resolutions may be moved by them with regard to the different major and minor heads of the Budget. The duty that is cast upon non-official members in this respect has not so far been discharged to their satisfaction and the reasons, I take it, for this admitted failure on the part of the non-official members to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the rules are (first) the very short time which is allowed under the rules for framing and submitting resolutions for the consideration of this Council, and, secondly, want of adequate details in Appendix B to the Financial Statement, as to the expenditure under the different heads. One who has attempted to go through the Budget and the Financial Statement carefully with a view to see whether he has any useful suggestion to make, must have been struck with the difficulty to which reference has been made, especially in a year like the present when the provincial expenditure must be limited to the provincial revenue. The only kind of suggestion that non-official members can make are suggestions by way of transfer from one head to another, either major or minor. To enable them to do this work intelligently, it is absolutely necessary that there should be given in Appendix B in place of the very short

explanation of details, by way of an increase or decrease, more detailed explanation and some details under the minor heads, in order that it might be possible for the member to say that from this particular head so much might be taken and transferred to the head on which, in his opinion, additional expenditure is necessary. The hon'ble member, who last spoke and who has experience of the Imperial Council which I have not, said that additional details such as are wanting here are available to members of the Imperial Council. I am not quite sure that this is so over there to the extent to which it is desirable to have them, because glancing through the Imperial Budget which is available to us, I find that the only thing in regard to which the Imperial Budgets compare favourably with the provincial budgets presented here, are the notes given in greater detail in the explanations of increase and decrease. These notes afford greater help for the purpose which I am referring to than the very brief and short notes to be found in our Appendix B. When trying to do our duty we feel this difficulty, and I am glad that more than one member have already given expression to that difficulty.

I shall illustrate what I have just placed before the Council by one or two references. Reference has already been made to the fact that of the three Presidencies, the only Presidency, as my hon'ble and learned friend to my right has already pointed out, which has been compelled to reduce expenditure on education this year is the Presidency of Bengal. Now let us see how a member of this Council might have proceeded to consider this matter at the time when the draft Financial Statement was first presented. He would have found that under two very important heads a considerable reduction was made from the allotments of the year just over. For instance, under the head 'Grants-in-aid' the allotment was reduced from Rs. 20,75,000 for the last year just over to Rs. 14,80,000. No explanation is given. Under another head, payment in support of local schools under District Boards was reduced from Rs. 8,35,000 to Rs. 2,91,198. Surely the allotments under these heads are two of the most important allotments under the major head of education, but in the absence of details under the several sub-heads,—only the expenditure has been increased, for instance,—under the heads inspectors, inspection of Government schools and colleges,—as well as in the absence of details under other major heads, like administration, police, etc., it was perfectly impossible for any member who would have attempted to suggest even some slight increase in the allotments under these two heads, to make any effective suggestion. We all regret the substantial reduction under these two heads—heads which largely affect both the primary and secondary education of this province. One hon'ble member, who I see has left the Council Chamber, has regretted very much that in his part of the country so many as 26 to 27 schools were clamouring for grants-in-aid, but none could be helped, and has said that if the grant-in-aid cannot be had from the Government, the University ought to grant it, and ought not to make exorbitant demands for recognition. There is no doubt that the University is perfectly helpless in this matter, and there is no doubt that a large number of schools are languishing for want of funds. This is a matter which ought not to be lightly dealt with, and if the present allotment of Rs. 14,80,000 could have been raised even by two lakhs by transfer from other heads, that would have done incalculable good to the cause of primary and secondary education in this country. But as I have said the non-official members are helpless in this matter; it is impossible for us with the material at our disposal to make any valuable or practical suggestion.

The other head, viz., the payment in support of local schools under District Boards, is a very important head, and from the experience I had of District Boards for a very long time, it seems to me that sums so paid do much useful work in supporting and encouraging a large number of primary schools in this province. The reduction of allotment necessarily implies discouragement and these institutions are bound to suffer.

Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari; Babu S. N. Banerji.

The next point which illustrates this difficulty is the allotment on sanitation. We have naturally taken a good deal of interest in regard to the allotments under these two heads, education and sanitation. Here, again, owing to the difficulties of the time, the allotment on sanitation has been reduced from 9½ lakhs for the year just over to 2½ lakhs. No doubt the Hon'ble Member in charge explained with clearness why the reduction was inevitable; we all know that, but the question was—could we not by suitable transfer from other heads raise this proposed allotment of 2½ lakhs, say, by a lakh more? Reduction under these two heads is certainly deplorable, and the difficulty which I have pointed out makes it almost impossible for us to come to the help of the Government in these matters."

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said :—

"Sir, though we have nothing to gain out of the budget this year by prolonging the discussion, there are one or two misconceptions that have crept into to-day's debate which, for the reasons referred to by the Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray and some other members who have spoken before, would not have arisen if fuller facts were before us. I should in the first instance, therefore, like to associate myself very thoroughly with the request that in future years more details upon which members could work, both with regard to the submission of resolutions and of general discussion, should be forthcoming. I am sure it is misconception based on the absence of full information that has led to some mistakes to which I shall now proceed to refer.

The Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur of Nashipur, who is always on the look-out for savings for the purposes of sanitation, more than indicated that it would be useful to save the Rs. 50,000 that the Government of Bengal is going to give to the University of Calcutta for hostel purposes. If all the facts were before us, the Hon'ble Maharaja would have realized that this sum is but the balance of the 10 lakhs which the Government of India promised last year, of which 9½ lakhs has already been paid to the University. The remaining 50,000 has, in the usual course of things, found its way into the provincial budget for the purpose of being paid out this year.

I do not quite follow my Hon'ble friend Babu Surendra Nath Ray when he suggested that it would be useful to make a diversion in favour of a Science College out of the Rs. 2,50,000 which the Government of Bengal are going to give to the University for its hostels. Incidentally he wanted to know whether the other sum of Rs. 1 50,000 appearing elsewhere in the budget is payable to the University in addition to the 2½ lakhs or is only a part of it. As a matter of fact this Rs. 1,50,000 is the annual recurring grant that the University receives, and Rs. 2,50,000 is a part of the 3½ lakhs which the Government of Bengal as a result of the Conference at Darjeeling agreed to add to the 10 lakhs paid by the Government of India for the purpose of college hostels. I am thankful, and everyone connected with the University is thankful to the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray for suggesting that this Government should pay what it can for the furtherance of the objects of the Science College, but such payment cannot very well be made out of amounts such as those indicated. A similar question was raised in the Imperial Council by the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji out of which nothing much came."

The Hon'ble Babu SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"I think my hon'ble friend is mistaken. I may just correct him and say that the Government will be glad to help the College of Science, if the University will be good enough to reply to a certain letter lying over a month unanswered."

Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikhari.

The Hon'ble Dr. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said :—

We do not generally refer to Imperial Council matters in detail in this Council, but it will be the first time that we are told, and we shall be told to our great surprise, that the University of Calcutta is lacking in Oliver Twist virtues and does not get for not asking for more. This misapprehension would not have arisen if non-official members moving in the matter had taken their colleagues into their confidence and were sure of their facts. I am exceedingly thankful to those Hon'ble Members who have raised the question that this Government should, if possible, come to the assistance of the Science College. I may say that the building is incomplete and that certain adjuncts and apparatuses and fittings are very much required. If by moving the Government of India it be possible for the educational budget to be improved, no one will rejoice at the improvement more than myself.

Reference has been made by a gentleman to the question of the affiliation of the Chittagong College. The Government of India refuse to entertain the question of affiliation because of the staff not being quite equal to what the Government of India think right. That has been the difficulty elsewhere, in the Government College in Krishnagar, for example. That is going to be the difficulty of the Sanskrit College, too. If the Government do not wish to see the disaffiliation of a Government College in a particular subject, they will have to come to its help and strengthen the staff. Again, there is the question of affiliation in Sanskrit M.A. of the Sanskrit College, which ought to be the one college where Sanskrit affiliation should be possible.

Reference has also been made to the report on the condition of the Calcutta Schools which the Hon'ble Mr. De had undertaken, but which has just been completed by Mr. Roy. I desire to give expression to our feelings of regret that the Hon'ble Mr. De will no longer be associated with the Government in education work. I congratulate him on his forthcoming promotion, and we certainly rejoice in his advance. Under his strong and sympathetic régime matters have been dealt with in a way that gave hopes of speedy improvement within the limits of our resources. What strikes one most when one goes through the report is that these schools suffer from a lack of proper habitation. After reading that report, I incidentally and informally suggested to the Director of Public Instruction that what we really want is that the Government, the Municipalities and the University should come together and devise means of better housing these schools which are doing excellent work under the circumstances, and which, if they are really to be improved, must have assistance. The Calcutta Corporation is clearing off congested bustees in Calcutta and the suburbs. Well, they may erect model schoolhouses, and then we can tell private schools that if you pay so much you will have a good schoolhouse, and that you must pay a little more than you are paying for an indifferent house or worse. We know your staff, though not quite all right, is tolerable; but such as it is you may, if better housed, do better work, and then improvement of staff and better discipline will come as a matter of course. The bustees also will be improved in the process, and it will be a capital investment for whoever takes it up. Anyone taking up the question would bring real practical help to the situation.

Reference was made by an hon'ble member suggesting that the University ought to be compelled to be less exorbitant with regard to the conditions of school recognition. It gives me almost a sort of pleasure to think that we are apt and able to be exorbitant. When a man is generally spoken of as weak, and he is now and again told that he is very strong, he rather enjoys it. This is the first time that I have heard that the University is at all exorbitant in its demands regarding recognition. The general suggestion is that it is all the other way and that our standard ought to be very much higher.

The Hon'ble Nawab Ali Chowdhury has said that the Central Muhammadan Hostel should be a non-collegiate hostel, and that 20 per cent. of the seats in the hostel are reserved for Mussulman students of private

colleges. I think this is not right. You will remember, sir, that at the Darjeeling conference, it was decided that the percentage system should be given up, and that there should be a central Muhammadan hostel where students of all the colleges would come. It has been rightly complained by my friend that Dacca Muhammadans are particularly unfortunate in regard to this matter. They are supposed to be going to have their own Muhammadan hostel, and while waiting for the Dacca University, they are supposed to be going to have a special college of their own. As a matter of fact they are having neither. There is no reason why the Muhammadan college should not come into being while we are waiting for the Dacca University. It would be a relief to the general situation.

Reference was made to the provision of a lakh of rupees for the promotion of industries. That is an aspect of things to which attention has been directed in the University of late, and I hope that something real will come of it."

[The Council at this stage adjourned for luncheon for an hour. On its reassembly, His Excellency the President took the chair.]

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, I shall very briefly refer to certain topics which seem to me to call for some remarks. It is a matter of great satisfaction to notice the reduction of receipts under head 'Excise' and whatever may be the cause of the same, I cannot but wish that this might serve as a prelude to further reductions in years to come. The revenue receipts on this head were increasing year after year, by leaps and bounds, and this increase was viewed with alarm by all who had the welfare of the country at heart.

I wish I could similarly congratulate the Government on a reduction in expenditure under head 'General Administration'. In these days of stress and strain, when economy is practised so ruthlessly on educational and sanitary matters, the country confidently expected a similar economy in this department, and it was a rude shock to be confronted with an appreciable increase of expenditure under this head.

India of to-day is essentially an agricultural country and Bengal is specially an agricultural province. I, therefore, think that more energetic measures should be taken to bring about improvements in agriculture.

The grant of a lakh of rupees for the appointment of a Director of Industries and for the development of native industries is specially welcome as being a move in the right direction. I think the grant might have been increased and that the Council might have been given more detailed information as to the manner in which this sum is to be spent.

Some time ago I drew the attention of the Government to the necessity of erecting a decent court-house at Burdwan and I hear that certain steps were taken to give effect to my recommendations; but I am disappointed to see that no provision has been made for this purpose. I hope that in the near future the contemplated building will be taken in hand.

I believe that the attention of the Government has not been drawn to the fact that in the jails of this Province, when there are no prisoner Brahman cooks in the jails, non-Brahman cooks are employed for the purpose and prisoners are made to take food cooked by them against their wish and religious sentiment. In my humble opinion, some provision ought to be made for the employment of Brahman cooks in the jails of this Province.

It is a well known fact that the number of duly-qualified medical practitioners is too small to cope with the demand, and a proposal was made in the Imperial Legislative Council to establish schools for giving such medical training as was used to be given to the native doctors of the old days. I hope the Government will see their way to make adequate provision for establishing medical schools in the sadar town of each Division in order that the public may be able to look for the services of qualified practitioners.

Chaudhuri Muhammad Ismail Khan.

In a former Budget speech of mine I brought to the notice of the Government the absence of a Government school in the town of Burdwan. Hopes were given by the Director of Public Instruction of a sympathetic consideration of the matter. But up to this time no steps have been taken for the purpose. I hope the Government will kindly take this matter into their consideration when funds are available."

The Hon'ble CHAUDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN said :—

"My Lord, no useful purpose is likely to be served by an elaborate discussion of the Budget Estimates for 1916-17, and any debate over them is sure to be more or less academic in its character. The titanic struggle of nations in Europe and other parts of the world is really staggering humanity not only morally but also economically. We Indians, as part and parcel of the British body politic, are bound to share in its fortunes. To meet the exigencies of this time of stress and strain, a rigid economy has to be observed in all branches of the administration, and it is indeed a pleasure to note that the keynote of this year's budget has been retrenchment throughout. From an exclusively Indian point of view, many useful and necessary works have been abandoned, many reforms postponed, and good things, calculated to secure the betterment of the condition of the teeming millions, foregone. But we must always be prepared for emergencies like these. As practical men, we should take things as they are and we must bear in mind that we cannot always afford to indulge in dreams of unimpeded growth of happiness and prosperity. Yet we have faith in the ultimate triumph of justice and righteousness and we hope and trust that even out of this 'welter of blood' a richer humanity will emerge and in the words of the poet the world will be more and more. We are fondly looking forward to the day when trade and commerce will recover their normal conditions and India's vast undeveloped resources will, under the guidance of our sympathetic rulers, secure for India, an amount of prosperity and industrial independence, which will indeed be a 'sight for the gods.'

Suggestions for improved sanitation and widespread education are quite out of place in a poor and shrivelled Budget like the present one. The Imperial Government has been very economical in its grant to the Provincial Governments, in spite of the increased taxation on salt which pinches even the poorest of the poor, and on other necessaries and luxuries. Your Excellency's Government is absolutely helpless in the matter, yet I am glad to note that your advisers and councillors have not been slow in doing their very best to avoid starvation and stagnation in many useful departments. I sincerely congratulate your Excellency's Government on making provision for Muhammadan Inspectors in the Budget in view of the spread of Muhammadan education.

My Lord, I may be pardoned for a bit of unsavoury criticism. It relates to the improvement of the status of the lowest grade of that extremely useful class of public servants, namely, the munsifs who, by their strenuous work and honest and steadfast discharge of duties, have always deserved well of the State. They, as a class, are in no way inferior to the members of the Provincial Executive Service, nay, in many respects they are superior and more hard-worked. The proposal of having the lowest grade of this useful class of public servants on Rs. 250 has been on the tapis for some time and though it had almost universal support, yet this much-needed reform has not been given effect to. The question was debated in this Council at the instance of my hon'ble friend and colleague Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq and it was a pity that the Council could not be brought to his way of thinking and that no provision could be made for it in the present Budget. The very large income that accrues to Government out of the sale of Court fees is certainly a very strong ground for the proposed reform, which cannot be lightly brushed aside.

Mr. Golam Hossein Cassim Ariff.

My Lord, I have one more remark to make and I have done. It is not certainly consistent with what I submitted at the outset to make a long speech and to detain the Council over criticisms over minor details.

As last year, I entered my humble but firm protest against the increase in expenditure over lawyers' fees. I am constrained to raise my feeble voice once again against an increase of Rs. 1,96,000 for the payment of lawyers' fees. This item should be cut down to its minimum and an example set to my countrymen who court ruin by going to law and paying fabulous fees to lawyers. Litigation has been the curse of the people of Bengal and the spirit should be curbed by healthy example.

With these few remarks I beg to support the Budget for 1916-17."

The Hon'ble Mr. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF said :—

"My Lord, last year I dealt at some length with the system of education as obtaining in this Presidency. I expressed my regret that no provision, which could at all be called adequate. was made for imparting to our youths such education on industrial lines as would fit them for the struggle for life. I am afraid the exigencies of the war have prevented the Government from undertaking any experiment in this direction ; and I see no indication in the speech in which the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell introduced the Education Budget that this particular object has been kept in view. However, there is a provision of Rs. 25,860 for additional Inspectors for Moslem education. While I appreciate the efforts of Government to exercise greater supervision, I feel that the expenditure will hardly compensate for the wastage of good material which I see going on around us in the educational institutions of the country. As one connected with industry, I naturally attach great importance to the development of industrial education amongst both the Hindu and Moslem communities and probably more amongst the Moslems, for there is no denying the fact that we, the Moslems of India, and specially of Bengal, are comparatively a poor community, and it behoves us to see how that poverty and the causes relating to it may be removed. In this we have an advantage over our Hindu brethren. Trade, commerce and industry are not prohibited to us : our forebears had made notable achievements in this direction. Our laws of inheritance are more democratic in their effect upon the distribution of wealth than any other law which I know of, preventing the possibility of the accumulation of inherited wealth in individuals and thus stimulating individual efforts. Circumstances, into which I need not enter at the present moment, have thrown back our community a great deal. The Hindu community is making great and rapid strides especially in Bengal. I wish our Hindu brethren godspeed. As a Moslem, I cannot forget that in the dark ages of Europe the lamp of learning was kept burning in the Moslem Universities in Asia and Europe. While in the true interest of humanity the ideals of knowledge must be kept up, knowledge based upon the ideals which had prevailed in the East, it is equally in the interest of humanity that moral and intellectual development should be accompanied by material prosperity which can only be achieved by the growth and progress of industry. My Lord. what have we got to show in this direction? A weaving school at Serampore, of the result of which much is not known to the outside public. and an Engineering College at Sibpur, whose students are said to lack the practical knowledge of the West, are probably all that we have.

The Government, no doubt, would like to put the blame upon the people as being unwilling to make the same venture as the nations of the West ; but would that be a correct attitude for the Government to take up in dealing with the industrial development of India? In the growth of industries, would it be possible for a nation, whose education has been founded and is still continued upon the basis of ancient classics, whether of the East or the West, to enter with any chance of success into competition with the well-established and organised industries of Great Britain, America and the Continent of Europe?

Mr. Golam Hossein Cassim Ariff.

My Lord, it seems to me that the Government are awakening at last to a sense of their true responsibility. A high official of your Lordship's Government, while addressing students, laid great stress on the work done by Government for the protection of life and property. Though that is no doubt a great work, you must give the people bread before you prevent them being robbed and it is gratifying to us to note that efficient administration is not overlooking the needs of the people, in directions other than the preservation of peace and order. Even the high priests of free trade are advocating a qualified system of protection for home industries. We, who might be likened to more babies lying helpless in the cradle of life in comparison to the giant nations of the West, have been overwhelmed with the produce of other countries, much more industrially advanced, and manufactured under a system which gives us no chance. To day, my Lord, what can be more pitiable than that while America and Japan, taking advantage of the European war, are flooding our country with their rotten produce, we are sitting practically helpless with folded hands? The responsibility for this state of things lies, I believe, in the spirit of British rule, which would leave every thing to individuals. The result is seen in various directions. I have had to close down my Silk Mills, the only ones in Bengal, for want of aniline dyes and even the time-honoured and immemorial festival of the 'Holi' had to be content to be celebrated without its accompaniment, the red powder. Government little realise that this latter incident has affected their prestige in the bazars of India where the dependence of Great Britain on German dyes and German industries forms the subject of unenlightened gossip.

My Lord, we note that a Commission, with representatives of our people included in its body, has been just appointed to inquire into the industrial position and possibilities of India. I believe that your Lordship's Government had no hand in the choice of members of that Commission; but as one connected with the industrial life of India and its difficulties, so far as private enterprise is concerned, it seems to me that the Commission would have been more fruitful of results if it had included more men with greater intimate knowledge of the economic conditions of this and other countries, with knowledge of the industrial system of Japan, America and the Continent of Europe, so that we might have had the benefit of their experience as to how it was possible to introduce successful industries carried on with indigenous capital into countries which were until lately wholly agricultural, and how far the Government should and might assist such industries and in what way. My Lord, the composition of the Commission points to an interest in the mineral resources of India. If, my Lord, the result of the Commission is the exploitation of the mineral wealth of India in the interest of foreign capitalists, our last stage will be worse than the first. For now we have dumped down on the Indian market produce of foreign countries which we pay for with Indian produce which may be renewed from year to year. But nothing will compensate India if foreign capitalists take away her mineral wealth in exchange for their manufactures. The great question is to induce the flow of indigenous capital into the manufactures and industries of the country, the suggestion of means by which confidence will be created and Government brought into closer touch with the industrial life of the country. It has often been said that it is no business of Government to come to the aid of the industries of the country. It may be true of the highly-developed organisations of the West; but it can hardly hold good in a country wholly untrained in the industrialism of the modern state, and face to face with keen competition with countries where industries are fostered by their Governments in every possible way and specially by the weight of their political power. If the Commission will show us how industries may be fostered in the country without the influx of foreign capital, it will bear some fruit. However, I hope it will not share the fate of some commissions of which we have had some experience.

Mr. Golam Hossein Cassim Ariff.

My Lord, I began by referring to the educational system of the country as it now prevails. I do not wish to dwell upon that unpleasant but not inexplicable feature of the association of some members of our student community with anarchical ideas. It may be, and I am sure it is, that students cut off from home life and all the influences of home and cast adrift into the turbid stream of a big city like Calcutta may be easily caught into the net of designing and evil-disposed persons, specially when the latter approach them in the garb of friends and deliverers. This is an evil which is perhaps avoidable by bringing education nearer the homes of our student population; but that the happening of an incident like that, which is forming the subject of an inquiry at the present moment, should be possible in an institution like the Presidency College of Calcutta, conducted under the direct supervision of Government, is a serious indication of the laxity of moral discipline in the present system of education of our youths: that it should be possible for Indian youths to insult their teachers is a thing at which the ancient teachers of India, Hindu or Moslem, would stand aghast. The old bond, the old sympathy, the old attitude of mind which bound the guru and his disciples, the maulvi and his pupils, as father and sons, seems to have gone altogether. Many of the teachers and professors do not even know 90 per cent. of the names of their pupils. Should we not learn something from the missionary institutions where better relations between the teacher and the taught prevail? It may be well to cry out that all sense of discipline is gone, but when nothing is done in our schools and colleges to inculcate into the minds of our youths the elementary principles which should govern their relations with authority, parental, tutorial or otherwise; when no attempt is made to train them in habits of obedience; when license is taught as the equivalent of liberty; it is no use to apply the lash. The rod must break on a back that has hardened with time. You cannot achieve by a momentary shew of displeasure what requires years of patient and loving work. The dismissal of the whole college for the fault of a few students is like the punishment of a whole nation for the crime of a few individuals: it only aggravates the evil. I should not like to anticipate the result of the labours of the Committee that is now sitting over this matter. I only hope that the Committee will give us the lead in so reorganising the life of our student community as to make the recurrence of such regrettable incidents practically impossible.

My Lord, talking of the causes of unrest amongst the students, I do not think it would be right to ignore the sense of alarm and grave discontent that prevails among the sober and steady resident population of Calcutta, by reason of the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust. My Lord, a grievous injustice was done to Calcutta when the Government, while borrowing the main provisions of the Improvement Act from Bombay, omitted, for reasons best known to their advisers, to adopt the constitution of the Bombay Improvement Trust. The result was what any man with ordinary common sense would expect. In Bombay they have got a body of 14 with 3 nominated members. In Calcutta we have a body of 11 with 4 members, nominated practically on the recommendation of the President, and three members, one being the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, one chosen by the officialised moiety of the same body and the other by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, so that in a body of eleven, we have, including the President, eight official or semi-official members, who have no more knowledge of the real life of Calcutta than the proverbial man in the moon. The birth-rate and death-rate may be known to them, and the slums and the number of houses and huts which crowd the spaces of Calcutta may also be known; but what is unknown to, and unknowable by, these gentlemen is the life with all its hopes and fears, its innermost sentiments and aspirations, that is throbbing inside those houses and huts.

The administration of the Trust has caused great alarm and dissatisfaction; our people who were so much attached to their homes are no longer sure that they can dwell in them with any sense of security or that they can leave

Mr. Golam Hossein Cassim Ariff.

My Lord, it seems to me that the Government are awakening at last to a sense of their true responsibility. A high official of your Lordship's Government, while addressing students, laid great stress on the work done by Government for the protection of life and property. Though that is no doubt a great work, you must give the people bread before you prevent them being robbed and it is gratifying to us to note that efficient administration is not overlooking the needs of the people, in directions other than the preservation of peace and order. Even the high priests of free trade are advocating a qualified system of protection for home industries. We, who might be likened to more babies lying helpless in the cradle of life in comparison to the giant nations of the West, have been overwhelmed with the produce of other countries, much more industrially advanced, and manufactured under a system which gives us no chance. To day, my Lord, what can be more pitiable than that while America and Japan, taking advantage of the European war, are flooding our country with their rotten produce, we are sitting practically helpless with folded hands? The responsibility for this state of things lies, I believe, in the spirit of British rule, which would leave every thing to individuals. The result is seen in various directions. I have had to close down my Silk Mills, the only ones in Bengal, for want of aniline dyes and even the time-honoured and immemorial festival of the 'Holi' had to be content to be celebrated without its accompaniment, the red powder. Government little realise that this latter incident has affected their prestige in the bazars of India where the dependence of Great Britain on German dyes and German industries forms the subject of unenlightened gossip.

My Lord, we note that a Commission, with representatives of our people included in its body, has been just appointed to inquire into the industrial position and possibilities of India. I believe that your Lordship's Government had no hand in the choice of members of that Commission; but as one connected with the industrial life of India and its difficulties, so far as private enterprise is concerned, it seems to me that the Commission would have been more fruitful of results if it had included more men with greater intimate knowledge of the economic conditions of this and other countries, with knowledge of the industrial system of Japan, America and the Continent of Europe, so that we might have had the benefit of their experience as to how it was possible to introduce successful industries carried on with indigenous capital into countries which were until lately wholly agricultural, and how far the Government should and might assist such industries and in what way. My Lord, the composition of the Commission points to an interest in the mineral resources of India. If, my Lord, the result of the Commission is the exploitation of the mineral wealth of India in the interest of foreign capitalists, our last stage will be worse than the first. For now we have dumped down on the Indian market produce of foreign countries which we pay for with Indian produce which may be renewed from year to year. But nothing will compensate India if foreign capitalists take away her mineral wealth in exchange for their manufactures. The great question is to induce the flow of indigenous capital into the manufactures and industries of the country, the suggestion of means by which confidence will be created and Government brought into closer touch with the industrial life of the country. It has often been said that it is no business of Government to come to the aid of the industries of the country. It may be true of the highly-developed organisations of the West; but it can hardly hold good in a country wholly untrained in the industrialism of the modern state, and face to face with keen competition with countries where industries are fostered by their Governments in every possible way and specially by the weight of their political power. If the Commission will show us how industries may be fostered in the country without the influx of foreign capital, it will bear some fruit. However, I hope it will not share the fate of some commissions of which we have had some experience.

Rai Prasanna Kumar Ray Bahadur.

pillory in the press; the result of their efforts minimised and sometimes brought to nought by the cleverness of lawyers, and finally assassination in the open streets without protest and without help from the passers-by. Are we to add to this list by depriving them of the funds necessary for not only improving their service, but even for maintaining its efficiency? In truth the policeman's lot will not be a happy one. My Lord, there are men, possibly in this Council, though I trust not, who seem to be systematically opposed to any fresh grant to the police, and even, I believe, if they had their way, would reduce the grant. There are men who, if it were not for this self-same police, would be getting their throats cut three days a week and shot at the other four. These men may smile now, but surround their houses with dacoits, and they would very cheerfully exchange everything they had for a couple of stout policemen. My Lord, in no circumstances and under no pressure can we afford to economise in the matter of police, in the matter of maintaining law and order. Without that law and order, the rest of the money spent in other directions may well be wasted. There can be no falser economy suggested or desired than a curtailment of expenditure on the police."

The Hon'ble RAI PRASANNA KUMAR RAY BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, while congratulating your Excellency's Government on the satisfactory character of the Budget, I may be allowed to say at the outset that I fully realize the difficulties which the Hon'ble the Finance Member had to contend with in preparing it. We all know 'the exceptional circumstances' referred to by the Hon'ble Member in his Budget note, because of which it has been found impossible to provide for the regrant of all the unexpended balances of the Imperial grants under certain important heads and for which the Government of India have been compelled to issue the mandate that the Budget must be prepared on the principle that the Provincial balances would not be available for expenditure in the financial year that has just begun. We are all praying for the day when the circumstances will change with the termination of the Great War. The pinch would have been felt long ago even out here had it not been for the splendid resources of the British Raj, both in men and money, and its wonderful economic organisation, which has elicited the unstinted admiration of the whole world.

My Lord, I feel diffident to offer any lengthy criticism on the Budget. Every one will admit that it is not the time to do that. And if we offer any criticism at all, I hope your Excellency will appreciate our motive in doing so as being a sincere desire of serving the Government with helpful suggestions—a duty which we owe not only to our constituents but also to your Excellency's Government. I will therefore confine my remarks to some of the most important heads in the Budget.

EDUCATION.

My Lord, it is rather disappointing to find that the provision under the head Education for 1916-17 is only Rs. 88,30,000 as against Rs. 1,05,62,000, the sanctioned estimate of last year. I am glad to find, however, that inspection charges have been curtailed by about Rs. 28,000, though the figure is still considerably more than the sanctioned estimate of last year. There is one provision in the Budget, my Lord, which I do not understand, and that is the provision of Rs. 58,000 for the Hastings House School. So far as I know, the idea of the Hastings House School emanated from a few successful professional and business men. The originators of the school were perhaps prompted by the fear that their hopefuls would be spoiled if they received their education in the existing schools along with other children whose parents were not gifted with the world's riches to the extent that they themselves were. So far so good. But when it comes to tapping the Provincial Revenue for the mere gratification of the desire of a handful of persons—of persons, moreover, who have the means of gratifying their desire—I respectfully submit, my Lord, that every taxpayer has a right to know more about it. My Lord,

Rai Prasanna Kumar Ray Bahadur.

can well understand Government spending extra money over the education of a particularly backward community, but in this case it is not a particular community that is going to be benefited. Any boy can be admitted into the Hastings House School provided his people are fairly rich—it does not matter whether they are zamindars or shopkeepers—the only thing required is wealth. In such circumstances I would respectfully ask the Hon'ble Member whether this grant of Rs. 58,000 from the public revenue is justifiable. My Lord, Government have already given up the idea of a college for well-to-do classes in connection with the Dacca University. Not only was popular feeling against it but the landed aristocracy were also against it. I have no quarrel with the promoters of the Hastings House School; what I would respectfully ask is whether there is any need for Government to recognise that school by making such a big grant. If it were a school exclusively for the sons of aristocratic houses in Bengal—in that case also I doubt very much whether the grant would have been justifiable, for, as the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan pointed out in a speech in this Council Chamber with reference to the proposed college for well-to-do classes, that aristocracy in India is not at all like what it is in European countries. In India the aristocrats do not form a class by themselves. Here aristocracy is a matter of caste; its criterion is not wealth—least of all professionally-acquired wealth.

This sum or even a fraction of it, I venture to submit, could have been very properly utilised for a hostel for *namasudra* students, whose claim for a separate hostel was so ably put forward at the meeting of the 13th March last by my hon'ble friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

SANITATION.

Although sanitation like other heads has also found sufficient support in the present Budget, yet it is gratifying to note that a further sum of one lakh of rupees has been found for it, making a total of rupees two lakhs and a half under this sub-head to provide additional funds for anti-malarial measures and other sanitary improvements. My Lord, your Excellency's Government have recognised the urgent need of taking some steps in order to check the ravages made by malaria in this Presidency. The Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda in reply to a resolution moved by my friend the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur on the 13th March assured him that Government would take steps as soon as the report of the Malaria Committee was received. It is not for us laymen to suggest any scheme for driving out malaria from Bengal. But we all know that malaria *can* be driven out from here as it has been driven out from Italy. And in Italy, my Lord, it was the Government who took the initiative in the matter. It is often urged, even by men who ought to know better, that the people are apathetic in the matter of malaria, that if they themselves take proper care and precaution and improve the sanitary condition of their surroundings, malaria will gradually be driven off. It is merely a half-truth, my Lord. The people have never in any country and in any age taken the initiative in these matters. The State must show them the way, the Government must help them to realise the necessity of protecting themselves before they begin to help themselves. This has been the lesson of history, and it is no use accusing the Indian people of indifference and apathy in the matter of sanitation.

There is another reason, my Lord, why this question should be taken up in right earnest now. The economic pressure that is gradually making itself felt upon persons belonging to the middle class, whose business or profession compels them to be in or near Calcutta, will ultimately end in pushing them out of the city, and where are they to go if the suburbs are not opened out? The Calcutta Improvement Trust, which, by the way, seems to be immune from the effects of the War, has already compelled many persons to leave the city. But the question of congestion in Calcutta cannot

Rai Prasanna Kumar Ray Bahadur.

be solved so easily. My Lord, I have heard even from persons whose ancestors settled in Calcutta after the battle of Plassey and who pride themselves as old Calcuttites that they would be glad to leave the city at once if they could find some place near it where they could live cheaply, breathe purer air and from where they could come daily to their places of business in Calcutta. This can only be effected, my Lord, if this malaria question is taken up in right earnest by the Government and that without any undue loss of time. I hope, with the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda, that the Hon'ble Dr. Sarkar, who is a distinguished member of the Malaria Committee, will urge that Committee to submit their recommendations to Government at as early a date as possible, so that work may soon be commenced in this direction. Whatever their recommendations may be, I hope, my Lord, that money will not be wanting in the next Budget, at any rate to give effect to them. In this connection I make a special appeal to the Hon'ble Member in charge of the finances of this Presidency—a Presidency for which he declared his love in the last Dacca Council meeting. He would not like to see this beautiful province factory-ridden and smoke-befogged, but would he tolerate the Angel of Death taking his annual toll by the hundred thousands from this beautiful land?

MISCELLANEOUS.

My Lord, I am always glad when there is a decrease in revenue under the head Excise. The causes of this decrease are no doubt the distressed conditions arising from the War. These conditions will pass away, but I hope with them will also pass away the craving for liquor on the part of the poor people.

My Lord, the authorities must be congratulated on the success which has attended their efforts in suppressing anarchical dacoities in Bengal—especially the motor-dacoities in or near Calcutta. That is sufficient justification for any extra expenditure that has been incurred.

This day, two years ago, we expressed our satisfaction for the provision made to increase the pay of the last grade of munsifs. But we find that our satisfaction was premature. This year there is not only no provision in the Budget, but even a Resolution by my hon'ble friend Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq failed to make any visible change in it. The munsifs must rest satisfied with the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda's reassuring words, but hope deferred might make even the hardened hearts of the munsifs sick. No effect also, it appears, will be given to the long-deferred scheme for the improvement of the pay of Registration clerks till after the present crisis is over. Theirs is a very hard lot indeed, and it would have been an act of kindness if Government could have found their way to provide some money for introducing at least a portion of the revision this year.

It is, however, refreshing to note that we are shortly going to have a Director of Industries, and it is hoped that under his direction indigenous industries will receive an impetus. The sum of one lakh of rupees is rather a modest amount to carry on experiments with, but I am sure that next year the Budget will show a considerably higher figure under this head. But, my Lord, howevermuch we may encourage indigenous industries, we cannot forget that Bengal is essentially an agricultural province and the sum allotted under the head Agriculture is in my opinion quite inadequate. I sincerely hope, my Lord, that this very important Department will receive its due share of attention at the hands of your Excellency's Government so that Agriculture may thrive and prosper side by side with manufacturing industries.

With these words I conclude my observations on the Budget. Many of us will not perhaps come back to this Council Chamber again, and I take this opportunity of expressing our gratefulness to your Excellency and your Excellency's official colleagues for the courtesy they have always shown towards us—the non-official Members."

can well understand Government spending extra money over the education of a particularly backward community, but in this case it is not a particular community that is going to be benefited. Any boy can be admitted into the Hastings House School provided his people are fairly rich—it does not matter whether they are zamindars or shopkeepers—the only thing required is wealth. In such circumstances I would respectfully ask the Hon'ble Member whether this grant of Rs. 58,000 from the public revenue is justifiable. My Lord, Government have already given up the idea of a college for well-to-do classes in connection with the Dacca University. Not only was popular feeling against it but the landed aristocracy were also against it. I have no quarrel with the promoters of the Hastings House School; what I would respectfully ask is whether there is any need for Government to recognise that school by making such a big grant. If it were a school exclusively for the sons of aristocratic houses in Bengal—in that case also I doubt very much whether the grant would have been justifiable, for, as the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan pointed out in a speech in this Council Chamber with reference to the proposed college for well-to-do classes, that aristocracy in India is not at all like what it is in European countries. In India the aristocrats do not form a class by themselves. Here aristocracy is a matter of caste; its criterion is not wealth—least of all professionally-acquired wealth.

This sum or even a fraction of it, I venture to submit, could have been very properly utilised for a hostel for *namasudra* students, whose claim for a separate hostel was so ably put forward at the meeting of the 13th March last by my hon'ble friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

SANITATION.

Although sanitation like other heads has also found sufficient support in the present Budget, yet it is gratifying to note that a further sum of one lakh of rupees has been found for it, making a total of rupees two lakhs and a half under this sub-head to provide additional funds for anti-malarial measures and other sanitary improvements. My Lord, your Excellency's Government have recognised the urgent need of taking some steps in order to check the ravages made by malaria in this Presidency. The Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda in reply to a resolution moved by my friend the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur on the 13th March assured him that Government would take steps as soon as the report of the Malaria Committee was received. It is not for us laymen to suggest any scheme for driving out malaria from Bengal. But we all know that malaria *can* be driven out from here as it has been driven out from Italy. And in Italy, my Lord, it was the Government who took the initiative in the matter. It is often urged, even by men who ought to know better, that the people are apathetic in the matter of malaria, that if they themselves take proper care and precaution and improve the sanitary condition of their surroundings, malaria will gradually be driven off. It is merely a half-truth, my Lord. The people have never in any country and in any age taken the initiative in these matters. The State must show them the way, the Government must help them to realise the necessity of protecting themselves before they begin to help themselves. This has been the lesson of history, and it is no use accusing the Indian people of indifference and apathy in the matter of sanitation.

There is another reason, my Lord, why this question should be taken up in right earnest now. The economic pressure that is gradually making itself felt upon persons belonging to the middle class, whose business or profession compels them to be in or near Calcutta, will ultimately end in pushing them out of the city, and where are they to go if the suburbs are not opened out? The Calcutta Improvement Trust, which, by the way, seems to be immune from the effects of the War, has already compelled many persons to leave the city. But the question of congestion in Calcutta cannot

My Lord, in order to make my meaning clear, I will ask the indulgence of my hon'ble colleagues to travel back with me a period of nearly three years and a half to fix their attention on the condition of things immediately on the annulment of the partition. With a view to prevent a set-back in the educational progress of Eastern Bengal, we were promised a University at Dacca. Ever since 1912 provisions were being made in every budget for this proposed University, and each year we were told to live on the hope that this University would soon be an accomplished fact. We are now told that a costly project like a University at Dacca is out of the bounds of possibility in the near future. I can understand that a big scheme like this cannot be developed in a day, but does it really take years and years for the scheme to mature and develop if only the will to carry the work through be not wanting? Even under the stress and turmoil of the war, the new province of Bihar and Orissa could get such a costly institution as a new High Court at Patna. Could not the same energy and the same quickness of despatch have accomplished at Dacca what they did under such abnormal conditions at Bankipur? Perhaps the Dacca University lies buried deep beneath some dusty files in some Secretariat, while the people of Eastern Bengal are no wiser than the unfortunate oilman's bullock hoping that considerable progress has been made, although matters are absolutely at a stand-still.

My Lord, another project which seems to have got round some oilman's bullock and is being turned round and round the Secretariat pressing machines is the proposed Muhammadan College at Calcutta. A notification for the acquisition of lands has no doubt been issued, but the College itself is as far from being an actual reality as anything in a visionary dream. I have no doubt that if the authorities concerned had the least intention of giving us a relief in this matter, the scheme would have been an accomplished fact long ago. But the officials allowed the matter to procrastinate with the result that the present financial strain on our resources has shut out the possibility of any consideration of the scheme for years to come.

My Lord, another project which has shared the same fate is the one for a hostel for Muhammadan boys somewhere in the vicinity of College Square in Calcutta. It was in 1913 that I drew the attention of Government to the pressing necessity for such a hostel, and since then I have never lost any opportunity of urging this matter on the attention of Government. In the session of the Legislative Council held at Dacca in 1914 the Director of Public Instruction, speaking to one of my resolutions on this subject, admitted that the difficulties of Muhammadan students regarding hostel accommodation were extremely real and genuine, and he practically endorsed all that I had to say as regards the adoption of early steps for the removal of such difficulties. More than three years have elapsed since this matter was first discussed in this Council, and to-day, at the end of my term, I am leaving the matter in exactly the same condition as at the beginning. It is true that a small hostel has been established at Wellington Square in a rented house as a temporary measure, but this is far from giving the students a real relief. My hon'ble friend the Vice-Chancellor told us about a year ago that he was going to establish a hostel out of University funds for Muhammadan students in the vicinity of College Square. I understand that a beginning has been made, and I sincerely hope that the project may not get round the neck of some oilman's bullock to be turned round and round some pressing machine of the University. The finances of the University must have been very little affected by the war, and there can be no possible reason for the postponement of this University hostel on any ground whatsoever.

My Lord, another project which seems to have got strangled at its very birth is the one for the Muhammadan Hall at Dacca. It may be a surprise for many of my hon'ble friends to hear that the foundation stone of this Muhammadan Hall, which was really meant to be a boarding-house for Muhammadan students, was actually laid by Sir Charles Bayley on the eve of his retirement as

Lieutenant-Governor of the ill-fated province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. 'It is', said Sir Charles Bayley on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the hall and referring to the remarkable progress in education made by the Muhammadans in Eastern Bengal, 'a very great pleasure to me on leaving this Province to find that much progress has already been made and that a foundation has been laid on which my successors may rear a splendid edifice.' The foundation of the edifice was no doubt well and truly laid, but little did Sir Charles Bayley know at the time that his successors were going to build the edifice itself in the air. It is time that the foundation stone with all its memorable associations be now handed over to the Archæological Department of the Government to be preserved as a part of the curiosities of a forsaken capital.

My Lord, I have hitherto mentioned only a few instances in which the most urgent and important schemes have been allowed to be shelved and which have now got to be given up altogether. The dilatory methods adopted with reference to these and similar projects were certainly not due to mere lethargy or laziness, for officials can be marvellously quick and energetic over any pet project of their own. I have already alluded to the case of the Patna High Court which was conceived, developed and carried into execution under the most abnormally unfavourable conditions. I am reminded of the case of the Hastings House School in Calcutta as another instance of the quickness with which schemes can be carried through in the face of the acutest of financial embarrassments. It seems a little perplexing that there should be one procedure for some schemes and projects, but quite a different one for others which may not happen to catch the fancy of officials.

My Lord, the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri has complained that the promises about making Dacca the second capital of the Presidency has not been faithfully kept. I am not prepared to share in his disappointment. The treatment meted out to Dacca ought to have been foreseen by every sensible man in Eastern Bengal. The declaration about the position of Dacca as a second capital of this Presidency was only a part of the programme of the annulment of the partition, which itself proceeded on broken pledges and unredeemed promises. It is no wonder that the inevitable has at last come to pass and has consigned Dacca to its doom. With the fall of Dacca as a capital city, many an important project relating to the welfare of the people of Eastern Bengal seems to have gradually slipped out of the attention of officials. I could have spoken for hours if I had been permitted to enter into minute details, but the limitation of time at my disposal compels me to make only passing references to a few specific instances.

First, there is the canalisation of Dacca khals and the Dacca Drainage Scheme. This was sanctioned and budgeted for by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and in 1913-14 the first budget of the present Government provided for a payment of Rs. 22,000 as fees to Messrs. Lane, Brown and Hewett for the preparation of a sewerage scheme for Dacca city. In 1915 the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda gave an assurance that the schemes would be carried into effect, but we do not find any mention of this item in the budget, nor any explanation of the delay.

The next item I wanted to refer to is the Dacca Aricha Road. Attention has already been drawn to this matter, and I need not repeat what has been said.

Drying up of the Dhalleswari is a serious problem, which should be immediately solved.

Survey classes.—Reference has already been made to these by the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, who has shown how Government has effected a saving of Rs. 2,640 yearly at an expense of between 17 to 22 thousand a year.

I must now leave Dacca and Eastern Bengal to their fate, and turn for a moment to one or two problems affecting the cause of Muhammadan education in Bengal. It is true we have always pressed for a preferential treatment of

Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.

the claims of our community in this matter, but in doing so we have never pressed for anything new. We have never asked Government to depart in the slightest measure from their own recognised principles. All authorities have constantly pressed the claims of Muhammadan education for special consideration. Even the well-known Hindu deputation, headed by Sir Rash Behari Ghose, which waited on His Excellency Lord Hardinge in Calcutta on the 16th of February 1912 in connection with the now historic university at Dacca, had the frankness to concede that 'The whole province will welcome the grant of special facilities for the spread of education among the Muhammadans in the shape of endowments and a more liberal award of scholarships.' The Education Commission of 1881, which was the most representative body that ever investigated the entire problem of education in India, after making careful and exhaustive inquiries on the subject, formulated a series of recommendations for the encouragement of Muhammadan education. It was in 1871 that the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in a minute acknowledged that the Muhammadans were not being fairly treated in Bengal with regard to the educational machinery. Nearly 45 years have passed since then, and I will not shrink a moment from remarking that the situation is not very much better to-day. On the 14th of March 1913 the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri moved a resolution recommending that substantial grants, both recurring and non-recurring, be set apart for the furtherance of schemes of Muhammadan education, and the resolution was accepted by the then Director of Public Instruction in an eloquent speech, which is a masterpiece in the art of self-glorification. At the end of three years it will be profitable to consider for a moment how these promises have been kept. In reply to an interpellation of mine on the 6th of March of this year the Hon'ble Mr. De furnished a statement showing the total expenditure, both recurring and non-recurring, on education either from Imperial grant or out of the royal grant for education, and also the amount spent under these two heads in the furtherance of schemes for the advancement of Muhammadan education. It appears that the non-recurring expenditure on education during these three years amounts to a little over fifty-one lakhs, out of which the amount spent on Muhammadan education amounts to a little over four lakhs. Similarly, the amount of non-recurring expenses during the years 1912-15 amounts to nearly 50 lakhs, out of which barely a lakh and a half seems to have been spent on schemes in the furtherance of Muhammadan education. The total expenditure during these years on both the heads, recurring and non-recurring, happens to be one crore and 67 thousand, and the exact amount spent on schemes for Muhammadan education comes up to the sorry figure Rs. 6,12,694—in other words, a poor percentage of about 6 per cent. I do not for a moment wish to impute any motive to officials, high or low, in their treatment of the claims of the Muhammadan community, but there seems to be a malignant fate dogging the steps of our community and paralysing the efforts of the officials in furthering our interests.

My Lord, there is one other matter relating to the problems of Muhammadan education, which is of the utmost importance to our community and which I cannot on the present occasion overlook. I refer to the necessity for providing Persian and Arabic teachers in High and Middle English schools in this Presidency. This was one of the recommendations of the Education Commission, and the matter has been constantly pressed on the attention of the Education Department not merely by individual leaders of our community but also by various public associations and educational conferences. It is therefore a matter of sincere grief to us that the answer of the Hon'ble Mr. De on the 27th of March 1916 to one of my questions in this Council reveals the startling fact that there are no less than 49 Government and aided schools where absolutely no provisions exist for the teaching of Arabic and Persian to Muhammadan students. A glance at the statement furnished to me will show that there are in some of these schools from 20 to 26 Muhammadan boys who for want of this provision for a maulvi have had to take Sanskrit or

Bengali as their second language. In the course of the debate on this very question in this Council in 1913 the Hon'ble Mr. Küchler remarked that provision for the teaching of Arabic and Persian has always been made wherever there is a demand on the part of Muhammadan boys for receiving instruction in these languages. He argued that there must be an initial demand before there can be a supply. We pointed out to him that his argument was fallacious and that the question of demand and supply would always interact on each other, and that unless there be a supply there could be no means of testing whether there is a demand. In the cases that I have mentioned where there are over 30 Muhammadan boys in an institution, there is no justification for not appointing a teacher for imparting instruction in Arabic and Persian. These Muhammadan boys cannot read their own classics for want of a provision for the teaching of these languages ; we object to their reading Sanskrit as their second language ; and I wonder whether our friend the present Director would insist on their reading German or Russian or any other of the Continental languages. My Lord, it is no use telling the Muhammadan community that efforts are never wanting to supply the needs of the community, when over 500 boys in 49 schools in this Presidency are driven to read Sanskrit or Bengali in preference to Arabic or Persian, simply because necessary provisions have not been made in these institutions for imparting instruction in our own classical languages.

My Lord, the sands in the hour-glass have run out, and I must conclude, but I feel I must do so with an expression of regret. In the present Members of your Excellency's Government we have the strongest possible combination favourable to Eastern Bengal and the Muhammadan community. The Indian Member of your Excellency's Government has himself been not only a prominent leader of our community, but one of the foremost citizens of Eastern Bengal, and has himself fought many a pitched battle for a just and equitable recognition of the very principles for which I have ventured to stand up to-day in this Council. The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon had himself inspired many of the most generous schemes in the furtherance of Muhammadan education and in the interests of the people of Eastern Bengal in general. The name of the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell is a household word in Eastern Bengal, and in some respects he knows the needs of the Muhammadan community and sympathises with them more than even many a leader of our own community. And yet, with all this combination of circumstances, Eastern Bengal is being gradually relegated to the cold shade of neglect, its capital city gradually reduced to insignificance, while almost all the fondest schemes for the furtherance of Muhammadan education are yet in the dreamland of unrealised hopes. In the case of Muhammadan education our disappointment is all the keener because, in addition to the members of your Excellency's Executive Council, we have in the present Director of Public Instruction an officer fully in sympathy with the legitimate aspirations of the Muhammadan community regarding matters affecting the department of Government in his charge."

The Hon'ble Babu RAMTARAN BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, the Hon'ble Members who preceded me have discussed various important matters in connection with the Budget, but as the administration of civil justice has not yet been touched upon, I may be excused if I claim under this head a larger grant, specially when there is a large surplus invariably left from the income derived from tax on litigation.

Even-handed justice to all His Majesty's subjects without distinction of race or creed, wealth or rank, is the highest glory of British rule. Anything which tends to impair or in any way affect the quality of the justice administered is likely to weaken or impair confidence in the administration.

Litigation is the canker which has been eating into the vitals of the country, and it cannot be seriously denied that the present system of administering justice with all its complex and elaborate procedure tending to encourage and prolong litigation contributes to a great extent to the evil complained of.

Babu Ramtaran Banerji.

While not detracting from the ability and intelligence of the members of the Indian Civil Service, I may be permitted to point out an anomaly which exists under the present system. Civilian Joint-Magistrates who have put in only a few years' service and who have no experience of civil work are promoted to the post of District Judges or Additional District Judges. They sit in appeal over the decisions of experienced Subordinate Judges and Munsifs, and it is not surprising that in some instances their judgments, whether of reversal or of affirmance, fail to satisfy the ends of justice. The aggrieved party naturally seeks relief by a second appeal to the High Court, but that Court cannot interfere with the decision unless it is opposed to law or there has been an error or defect in procedure which affected the decision on the merits. Under the law the finding of facts, however erroneous, must be taken as correct and cannot be interfered with in second appeal. Hence the party has little or no chance of obtaining relief unless there is some mistake in law. The result is that there are remands made, and in the majority of cases such remands prove infructuous.

Then, again, if the value of the suit is small, the second appeal is heard by a single judge of the High Court, and there is a further appeal allowed under the Letters Patent upon a question of law.

It is clear from what I have stated above that litigation under this system is ruinous to the parties, and although they might have a real grievance, they are debarred from obtaining any relief owing to the finality which attaches to the findings of the Court of first appeal on questions of fact.

The true remedy, therefore, lies in strengthening the courts of first appeal, and this can only be done by the creation of a composite bench consisting of a member of the Civil Service and an experienced Indian Judge. A scheme like this was many years ago formulated by the then Chief Justice Sir Richard Garth and public opinion was invited, and the question received the earnest attention of the Government of Bengal as well as that of the Government of India, but why it was not carried out I am not aware.

No doubt spasmodic action was taken now and then to give the junior members of the Civil Service a training in civil work as Munsifs, but it led to no practical improvement, and after a short trial it was abandoned. An attempt at revival has been made and we have now an intelligent officer, a Civilian, appointed as Munsif at Alipore. How far the system would answer the expectation of the public will be for the High Court and the Government to judge.

I may venture to assure your Excellency that it will be a great boon to suitors, and the only means to avert to some extent their ruin, if such a composite bench is created. The Civilian Judges, generally speaking, as experience tells us, are apt to attach greater weight to direct evidence, whereas Indian Judges familiar with the habits, thoughts and motives of their countrymen are prone to attach more weight to circumstances and probabilities. The fusion of these two lines of thought and not one independent of the other can alone lead to a correct determination of the true state of facts.

In this connection, I may be permitted to invite your Excellency's attention to a certain class of cases which often come up before the District Courts, I mean, cases for grant of probate of wills. These wills are in many cases unregistered. The question raised relates to their genuineness. Here again the European Judge, however able and intelligent he may be, not being familiar with the inner life of the Indians, the habits and manners of Indian females, secluded in the zanana and of the joint-family system of living, must necessarily be at a disadvantage in correctly appreciating the facts. Without going to the length of suggesting a change of the existing system by transferring this class of cases to Indian Subordinate Judges, I may venture to suggest that the European Judge may derive substantial help by being associated with an Indian Subordinate Judge. For this

innovation I may point out that important will cases in the Original Side of the High Court have sometimes been tried by a bench consisting of two or three judges.

But all these questions involve an outlay of money, and when our financial outlook brightens after the war, your Excellency, I trust, will be pleased to direct your attention to the agreeable duty of improving the administration of justice.

I thank the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell for the provision of Rs. 21,300, which he has made for sewer connection and other incidental improvements to the Alipore District Court in carrying out the municipal requisitions. But there are one or two items to which I may be justified in drawing the attention of Government. The absence of any accommodation for the numerous suitors and witnesses who daily attend the Civil Courts at Alipore is keenly felt. There is a paucity of furniture in the Court rooms to accommodate the suitors, their agents, pleaders and barristers. Some provisions should also be made for removing this want."

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL said :—

"My Lord, we started the financial year which has just run its course with a sanctioned education budget of Rs. 1,05,62,000. During the year there came orders for severe retrenchment. Accepting the revised estimate for 1915-16, as representing roughly what we have spent during the year, we arrive at the figure of Rs. 89,61,000 as representing the expenditure of last year. This year's sanctioned budget is Rs. 88,30,000. In other words, we have been given this year about Rs. 1,30,000 less than we spent last year, and Rs. 17,32,000 less than was provided in the budget of the last financial year. The reduction is solely under Imperial assignments. The only recurring Imperial assignment, which has not been made available during the current financial year, is the *5 lakhs* annual grant for the Dacca University; but this was intended as a grant for construction and is really of the nature of a recurring capital grant. We have therefore to face the year upon which we have just entered with money enough to carry on all our existing activities, but with practically nothing on which we can extend them. At this point I would also invite the attention of the Council to the table which stands on the top of page 4 of the budget of the Government of Bengal for 1916-17. This table shows that the Education Department had at the end of the financial year 1915-16 a closing balance of Rs. 94,63,000.

I have made these preliminary remarks, because some of the criticisms, which have been levelled at the budget, show that the provisions which it makes have not in certain cases been understood.

For example, the Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Banerji has referred to the question of grants-in-aid and has concluded on the basis of the figures shown against that head on page 55 of the budget that there is to be a serious reduction. The Hon'ble Members who have taken up this point have not understood the figures. The actuals for the years 1912-13, 1913-14 and 1914-15 which are respectively Rs. 17,24,594, Rs. 20,99,939, Rs. 31,11,918, represent the amounts spent on 'grants-in-aid' to institutions under private management, both from Provincial revenues and Imperial assignments, both recurring and non-recurring, whereas the provision made in the budget for the year 1916-17 represents the grant from Provincial revenues only. This grant will be supplemented by about 5½ lakhs from the Imperial assignments. For instance, on page 55 of the budget there is a provision of Rs. 1,50,000 against the 'lump provision for Secondary Education.' The whole of this sum has been distributed in the shape of recurring grants to secondary schools. Again, the lump provision of Rs. 8,20,000 shown against 'expenditure of the recurring grant' includes Rs. 2,26,000 for the improvement of secondary education. The bulk of this sum has been distributed in grants to secondary schools. Similarly, the recurring Imperial grants for other heads such as Female Education, 'Hostels,' and Technical

Education, include sums which will be spent in the shape of grants-in-aid. The explanation of the figures is something like this: In the Education Budget grants available from Provincial sources and from Imperial assignments under any particular head are shown separately. In adjusting the accounts for the period the Accountant-General does not observe the distinction as between expenditure under any particular head from Provincial revenues and Imperial assignments, and his figures for the expenditure under 'grants-in-aid,' for instance, show the total amount spent under that head from both Provincial and Imperial sources. I would ask the Hon'ble Member to mark the difference between columns 5 and 6 against 'grants-in-aid' on page 55 of the budget for 1916-17. He will see that the amount provided for grants-in-aid in the sanctioned budget for 1915-16 was Rs. 15,06,000, whereas the revised estimate shows Rs. 20,75,000. This means, as I have explained above, that in the revised estimate the expenditure on grants-in-aid from the respective Imperial assignments has been added to the expenditure under the same head from Provincial revenues. A similar adjustment will be made at the end of 1916-17, and it is anticipated that the total expenditure under 'grants-in-aid' will be something between 20 and 21 lakhs, *i.e.*, Rs. 14,80,000 from Provincial revenues and the balance from the Imperial assignments. The amount provided for grants-in-aid for the year 1916-17 from Provincial revenues is Rs. 26,000 less than that provided last year, and this is all the reduction that has been made. A portion of the provision is intended for capital grants—it is this part of the grant that has been reduced and this reduction was inevitable in the present state of finances. Before passing on, I might explain that the large difference between 1914-15, viz., Rs. 31,11,918 and that shown for last year in column 6, viz., Rs. 20,75,000, is due to the fact that in the years 1913-14 and 1914-15 the Education Department had at its disposal a large Imperial grant for non-recurring objects. Nearly the whole of this was dispensed as capital grants-in-aid to non-Government institutions. It would not be fair therefore to compare the figure for 1915-16 with the figure for 1914-15.

Again, the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur in returning to his 'annual cry' for the improvement of primary education has discovered that last year's budget grant for primary education, which he quotes at Rs. 9,25,000 was reduced in the course of the year to Rs. 1,32,000. He asks the cause of this great reduction. He sees the same grant of Rs. 9,25,000 provided in this year's budget, but he is mystified and scenting what would perhaps be described in the United States of America as 'slimness' on the part of the Financial Member, he suggests that some eight-ninths of this provision may perhaps by some equally disreputable piece of legerdemain be conjured back into the coffers of Government. Our hon'ble friend is not going to have that. So he asks with all the naive simplicity of a *debutant* in public life whether the public may not be favoured with some details—mark you, he does not want them all—as to how the money is to be spent.

I am afraid that the Rai Bahadur does not quite appreciate what a revised estimate is or why it appears as a column in the budget. He seems to imagine that Government having passed the budget under the jealous eye of the Council proceed, as soon as that searching gaze is removed, to revise it in the interests of economy. This is not so. I have already explained that the revised estimate, as it appears in the budget, gives us an approximation of the amount actually spent. If, therefore, the Hon'ble Member desires to compare the amounts spent last year with the amounts provided in the sanctioned budget, he must compare the respective totals in the columns 'Sanctioned Estimate' and 'Revised Estimate' and not the figures which appear respectively in these two columns under certain particular heads.

4. As regards the grant of Rs. 9,25,000, in the first place, both in the budget of this year and in the budget of last year this amount was

provided not against the head 'The improvement of *primary* education.' but against the head 'The improvement of *popular* education.' This is important because the assignment is not as the Hon'ble Member apparently imagines for primary education only—I wish it were. When the Government of India made this contribution, they distributed it as follows :—

	Rs.
(*i*) The Elementary Education of Boys	6,00,000
(*ii*) The Education of Indian Girls	1,07,000
(*iii*) Hostels	1,32,000
(*iv*) Technical and Industrial Education	34,000
(*v*) The Education of European and Anglo-Indian Children	52,000
Total ...	9,25,000

The whole of this amount was provided in last year's budget and a sum of Rs. 8,38,995 was actually expended. This expenditure will be found adjusted against various heads in the revised estimate for 1915-16. The balance under the various heads, though held over for the present, will be reserved for capital expenditure in respect of the particular branch of the education on account of which the saving has been realised. The whole assignment of Rs. 9,25,000 has been made available for expenditure in the curren tfinancial year, and it will be spent on the several branches of education among which it has been distributed in accordance with schemes of expenditure which have been approved. The amount available from this assignment for the primary education of Indian boys in the current financial year is, as I have just stated, above Rs. 6,00,000. Other provisions in the budget for the primary education of Indian boys are—

(1) an Imperial recurring grant of Rs. 3,65,000. which is provided in the budget estimate for 1916-17 against the head 'Expenditure of the recurring grant' (see page 55 of the budget of the Government of Bengal for 1916-17) ;

(2) an assignment of Rs. 2,91,193 from Provincial revenues, which is provided in the budget estimate for 1916-17 against the head 'Payment in support of local schools under District Boards ;'

(3) an assignment of Rs. 2,50,000 from Provincial revenues provided in the budget estimate for 1916-17 against the head 'Guru-Training Schools' (see page 54 of the budget of the Government of Bengal for1916-17) ;

(4) the only other provision is a small grant of Rs. 2,000 which appears in page 53 of the budget against the head 'Lower Primary Schools for boys.' This provision is made for the support of certain Government lower primary schools.

The Hon'ble Babu Mahendranath Ray has misunderstood the provision made against the head 'Payment in support of local schools' to which I have just referred. There has been no reduction under this head but an increase of Rs. 2,238. The Hon'ble Member compared the budget estimate for 1916-17 with the revised estimate for 1915-16, but the revised estimate for 1915-16 includes the amounts transferred to District Boards from the Imperial assignments. As I have already explained, all the recurring Imperial assignments except the 5 *lakhs* annual recurring grant for Dacca have been provided for in the current financial year. Consequently, so far as recurring as opposed to capital grants are concerned, primary schools are in a better position this year than they were last year by about Rs. 2,000.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur has quoted me as having said last year that I was profoundly dissatisfied with primary education as a whole. My dissatisfaction remains, and it has not been diminished by a recent visit which I paid to the United Provinces. There is something in those provinces which may be called a primary school system ; here there is nothing which can reasonably be described by such a term except in so far as the system of establishing District Board lower primary schools has been realised. The

Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri has told us that literates in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions number 66 *per mille* only and that for the Rajshahi Division the figure falls to 53 *per mille*. We have also heard from him that for the whole area of Western Bengal including Calcutta and the municipal areas there is only one primary school for every 2½ miles, while in Eastern Bengal, after a period of progress which he describes as phenomenal, there is only one school for every 3 miles.

The Hon'ble Nawab has referred to a sudden drop in 1912-13. Fortunately the statistics show that there has been a recovery in the number of scholars, though not in the number of schools. The figures are—

	Schools.	Scholars.
1911-12	28,602	1,011,608
1912-13	28,089	1,045,400
1913-14	27,461	1,027,684
1914-15	28,327	1,046,694

These figures do not give us much cause for self-complacency. The Hon'ble Nawab hints with that courteous delicacy which always characterises his utterances that we are not doing as well as the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam were doing. Very possibly we are not. But we are following out to the letter not only in Eastern Bengal but throughout the Presidency the policy laid down by that Government. There have been critics from Western Bengal who have suggested that this policy is not without its drawbacks; while admitting the advantages of the Board lower primary school scheme they regard it, or rather the policy of concentration which is supposed to underlie it, as likely to deprive large tracts of existing schools, which, though admittedly defective, are better than none at all. It is rather irony to have it suggested now by the Hon'ble the Nawab that we have, through our own perversity or stupidity, fallen into the very trap which the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam were so careful to avoid. I dealt with this point last year. I can only say now that the inspecting officers of the Education Department have not received any instructions to raise the standard of grant. On the contrary I referred this criticism to each Divisional Inspector, and each such officer has assured me in reply that they are all alive to the necessity for a liberal policy in the matter of grants and that they are not aware that any attempt had been made to interpret that policy in a more exacting spirit. But the difficulty is that the grants are already spread so thin that they offer very little inducement to a man to take up and continue the work of instructing children in the elements. What, I repeat, can you expect of an arrangement which provides the majority of your primary school teachers with a standard of wage which is far below that of an ordinary cooly? No system, I reiterate, is possible under these conditions. There are years when, for reasons over which the Education Department has not the smallest control, a considerable number of men with some rudiments of elementary knowledge come forward in certain districts and are willing to collect a few children and try and teach them. In other years, owing to circumstances equally beyond our control, the primary school teachers give up their schools and turn to less arduous and more remunerative callings.

The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur referred to a statement which I made last year about some departmental action which I was taking and proposing to take in the matter of primary education. The two officers to whom I then referred have submitted their report, and I have had their proposals and certain suggestions of my own considered by a representative conference of the inspecting officers of the Presidency. The next step will be the working out of a complete scheme, including a curriculum and syllabuses. The problem is to how to evolve an arrangement which, while it will set the great majority of those who are teaching and who are likely to be available during the next few years to teach in the primary schools, a task not beyond their very limited capacities, will not only give a chance to those who are

capable of doing better work but also make it worth their while to do it. I need scarcely add that no real advance is possible without a great deal more money.

The Hon'ble Maulvi Musharraf Husain Khan Bahadur has attacked Government on behalf of 27 high schools in the Presidency which are, he alleges, unable to obtain recognition from the University for want of funds and other reasons. What 'the other reasons' are, the Hon'ble Maulvi does not explain. But the thought of these institutions unable to carry out the purpose which they have set before themselves has roused his public spirit and he protests that the 'object of all Governments is not the safety of life and property alone but that their first and chief duty is the elevation of the people mentally, morally, economically and physically. The education, health and comfort of individuals, as well as societies and nations, should,' he exclaims, 'find their proper place in the budget of any Government, and when it was found that 27 schools were suffering for want of funds I should have thought that it was the duty of Government to have inquired into these cases and helped them. The plea of war which stands in the way of obtaining 2 or 3 *lakhs* for these schools cannot and must not be allowed to hold good.' Nor does the University escape the Hon'ble gentleman's denunciations. Government are to move the University so that it may relax its exorbitant demands.

If the drift of the Khan Bahadur's rhetoric were that the case for more funds for secondary schools is very urgent, I, as Director of Public Instruction, should have felt inclined to have gone round quietly after this meeting and clasped his hand in gratitude. The secondary schools of the Presidency do most urgently need more funds, and so far as I can see, the greater part of these funds, if not the whole of them, will have to come from public revenues. I do not forget, however, that, at a time like this, the Financial Member must needs be like the deaf adder. When, however, the Hon'ble Member suggests that it is the duty of the Local Government to coerce the University in the exercise of the functions which have been devolved upon it by law, then we part company. The University cannot of itself alter the rules regarding the recognition of schools. I am quite certain that the Syndicate do not wish to make these rules more lenient and I should be the very last person to advocate that the Syndicate should be asked to adopt such an attitude.

The Hon'ble Member professes to be taking his facts from the reply given by Government to a question asked by the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Hossain Hyder Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, at the meeting of this Council which was held on the 6th of March last. The reply was to the effect that there were 99 high schools in the mufassal districts in the Presidency of Bengal which had not been recognised; that the want of funds had in certain cases been put forward as a reason for not meeting the requirements of the University; but that Government considered that the small amount of money which is available for grants-in-aid is better spent as a general rule on high English schools which have already been recognised by the University than on those which have not been able to secure such recognition. I can find no authority for the statement that 27 high schools are now definitely excluded from recognition owing to lack of funds.

The answer which Government gave was based on information which was collected by my office from the Divisional Inspectors. I have their replies before me. Not one of the Inspectors knew of a single case of a high school being permanently or for an indefinite period debarred from recognition for want of funds.

It is interesting to find that the adherents of State socialism have secured in our honourable colleague so powerful an advocate, but the Hon'ble Member has entirely misunderstood the position which Government on the basis of its existing resources is bound to take up. It cannot be responsible for the provision of such schools as may be thought to be required in any particular locality. All that Government can do now is to supplement, so far

Mr. Hornell.

as possible, local efforts, and if the local enthusiasm for a high school is not sufficient to carry it through to recognition by the University, Government would not in most cases be wise to lay out the public money elsewhere. It is a case of 'To him that hath, shall it be given!'

The Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur has raised the question of a Government school for the town of Burdwan. I admit that the town of Burdwan is badly off in the matter of secondary schools, in spite of a good high school which is maintained by the Maharaja. In January last year, I visited Burdwan with the Divisional Inspector and noted strongly on the inadequacy and unsatisfactory character of the present provision for secondary education. I referred the whole matter to the Inspector, and he has tackled it in a very businesslike and practical way. We have sanctioned some additional grants, and I hope and believe that conditions are better than they were at the beginning of last year. In the existing financial conditions it would be a mere waste of time to elaborate a scheme for the establishment of a zilla school in Burdwan. As to what may be done when normal financial conditions are restored, I am unable to commit myself, much less Government. But this I can say, and that is that if, when the days of prosperity return, there is a school which is up to a standard at which, with a few possible improvements, it might be converted into a zilla school, then the wishes of the people of Burdwan are more likely to be fulfilled. It is one thing to transfer a good existing school to Government; it is quite another thing to establish a completely new institution.

The Hon'ble Rai Prasanna Kumar Ray Bahadur has not concealed his disapproval of the Hastings House School. He has drawn a picture of a few successful professional and business men turning up their plutocratic noses at the educational arrangements with which others less favoured with this world's goods than they are have to be content, and conspiring with Government to tap the provincial revenues to the tune of more than half a *lakh* of rupees a year. The Rai Bahadur can understand Government spending extra money on the education of a particularly backward community, but these conspirators cannot even claim this distinction. They are not Namasudras or impoverished Brahmins! Any boy, says the Hon'ble Member, can be admitted into the school provided his parents are fairly rich. It matters not whether his father be a zamindar or a shopkeeper.

I am not altogether floored by the righteous indignation of the Hon'ble Member, it is partly because I see more than one of the conspirators sitting round this room. I have also noticed that the hon'ble gentleman in his zeal has somewhat seriously misstated the actual cost to the public revenues of the institution. The Hon'ble Member submits that every taxpayer has a right to know more about the school, and so far as its finances go, I am only too delighted to take this opportunity of explaining what the present position is.

The school is intended mainly for boarders, but a few day scholars may be admitted at the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction. The accommodation available at Hastings House is strictly limited to 50 boarders. Each boarder has to pay a consolidated fee of Rs. 105 a month for 12 months in the year; every day scholar is required to pay a consolidated fee of Rs. 27-8 a month for 12 months in the year. There are at present 31 boarders, so that the fee receipts from boarders, even if the number, which is unlikely, remains at its present level, will amount during the current financial year to Rs. 39,060. There are 6 day boys and they will contribute for the financial year Rs. 1,980. The provision of Rs. 58,000 which the Hon'ble Member has quoted has been provided to cover all the expenses of the school throughout the year, including the feeding of 50 boarders at the sanctioned rate of Rs. 30 per head per month. If the number of boarders does not increase, we may reduce the total amount which can be spent on boarding by Rs. 5,700. The anticipated expenditure therefore for the current financial year, if the school remains at its present strength, will be Rs. 52,300 and the fee receipts will amount to Rs. 41,040. In other words, the total cost to Government, unless the staff is increased, cannot even at the present strength of the school exceed Rs. 11,260.

Mr. Hornell.

So much for the finances of the school. If the Hon'ble Member wants to know anything about the school itself, I only hope that he will go down to Alipore and see it for himself. I would at this point remind him of what I said about this institution in the budget debate of last year. The present arrangements are only temporary and provisional. Those who wanted the school were anxious that the value of such an institution should be demonstrated. I believe that Hastings House with all its shortcomings is demonstrating the value of an institution conducted on the general lines of discipline which obtain in schools in England, and I look forward to the day when this experiment will develop into a large and well-established residential school to which the leading men of Bengal will be proud to send their sons. Government will doubtless expect wealthy men in Bengal to contribute liberally to the establishment of such a school. As regards the present cost, so far as it falls upon public funds, we feel that the expenditure is justifiable and not unreasonable. There are boys at Hastings House whose fathers can afford to pay a good deal more than they are now paying; but the pupils of the schools are not by any means all the sons of wealthy men. I should here mention that five Bengali gentlemen have given scholarships to the school of Rs. 50 a month each. I have here a list which shows particulars of the parents of every boy now in the school, which I shall be happy to hand to my honourable colleague. The list contains merchants, but not, so far as I can make out, any shopkeepers.

The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur again voices the disappointment of his community that the problem of female education in this Presidency remains unsolved. He also criticises the provision of Rs. 30,000 only for female education. He characterises this provision as 'paltry.'

My hon'ble friend's usual sturdy optimism has deserted him. He is in despair. I am sorry, but he is entirely mistaken when he states that a sum of Rs. 30,000 only has been provided for female education. Over and above many items of expenditure, which are a charge on Provincial revenues, the budget includes an Imperial recurring grant of Rs. 2,44,000 for the improvement and expansion of educational facilities for Indian women and girls, *i.e.*,—(*i*) a sum of Rs. 1,07,000 included in the lump Imperial recurring grant of Rs. 9,25,000 for popular education to which I have already referred, (*ii*) a further sum of Rs. 1,07,000 included in the lump recurring Imperial grant of Rs. 8,20,000, and (*iii*) the sum of Rs. 30,000 which is provided against the head 'lump provision for female education recurring'. All these provisions are to be found on page 55 of the budget. The total grant has been distributed as follows :—

	Rs.
High schools for girls	22,580
Middle schools for girls	28,600
For a Secondary Teachers' Training College	40,000
For Primary Schools	28,120
Scholarships and Stipends	17,580
For Additional Assistant Inspectresses	32,435
Zanana education	12,870
For Muhammadan Education	40,880
For the Training of Primary School Teachers	6,560
Placed at the disposal of Her Excellency Lady Carmichael ...	5,000
Balance	4,375
Total ...	2,44,000

The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur refers to a grant of Rs. 60,000 paid to a Mission school in Calcutta for the construction of a new building. I gather that he does not disapprove of this grant, but he wonders why Government cannot provide funds for such orthodox institutions as the Mahakali Patsala. The Mahakali Patsala does receive a recurring grant from Government of Rs. 60 a month. I have not been approached with any proposal to give this institution either a larger recurring grant or a capital grant. But I have noticed that in the course of the last few months there has been a good deal about this institution in the newspapers. I have noted all that has been said by the various organs of public opinion and have

brought them to the notice of the Inspectress of Schools. I have before me an extract from an article which appeared in the *Hindu Patriot* on the 13th of December last. The *Patriot* quotes our hon'ble colleague the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan as having said, when he presided at the last prize-giving ceremony of this institution, that while he could understand the apathy or almost antipathy of that extreme section of the England-returned Indian community who look down upon everything pertaining to orthodox Indian or orthodox Hindus as beneath their contempt and in that sense are real enemies of the country, he was at a loss to understand why those who do not feel ashamed to be called orthodox Hindus should be lagging behind and permitting such an institution for the good of their families, their hearths and homes to be running the risk of a financial crisis. I do not know what, if any, effect the Maharaja's plain speaking has had, or what the present condition of the Mahakali Patsala is, but other possible difficulties and considerations apart, I do not feel that the present is an occasion for Government to come forward unasked with an offer of liberal assistance from the public revenues, even if such funds were at the present moment available, which they are not.

The Hon'ble Member has referred to a Committee of Bengali ladies and gentlemen appointed by Government to consider the question of the education of orthodox Hindu girls. 'It would be interesting,' he observes, 'to know whether any practical result has emerged from the deliberations of this Committee.' The Secretary handed me an advance copy of the Committee's report on Friday last. The time which this Committee has taken to formulate its conclusions in spite of the driving of its vigorous Chairman suggests that the problem with which they were appointed to deal is not an easy one and that there are factors of difficulty in the situation other than the tardy ineffectiveness and circumlocution of the Education Department.

The Hon'ble the Maharaja of Nashipur has mentioned *zanana* education. I have prepared a statement, which I shall be happy to hand to the Maharaja, which shows the number of teachers employed directly by the Education Department in the course of the last three years and the places at which they are employed. We have 47 sanctioned appointments, but only 45 of these are at present taken up, as it is not possible to fill the two remaining vacancies. The expenditure on this branch of education during the last financial year amounted to Rs. 34,076, towards which Provincial revenues contributed Rs. 23,206 and Imperial Rs. 10,870. I have explained above that the amount of money assigned to the *zanana* education from the Imperial allotment of Rs. 2,44,000 was Rs. 12,870.

In turning to the education of Muhammadans, I do not propose to follow the Hon'ble Nawab Ali Chaudhuri into his statistics. The figures are interesting and worthy of study, but it is impossible to deal with the large questions which he raises within the compass of this speech. When I said in my last report that it could scarcely be expected that the rate of progress in the case of Muhammadans would continue for an indefinite period to be much more rapid than that of Hindus, I certainly did not mean to suggest that the Moslem community was now suffering from an educational surfeit or to throw out even the obscurest hint that perhaps the remedy which the patient now requires is starvation. I went on to show that an examination of the latest figures indicated that the percentage of Muhammadans in colleges was 7·2 only, in the high stage 14·7, in the middle stage 25·0, in the primary stage 42·6 and passed to the conclusion that there was good ground for expecting that the number of Muhammadans under instruction in public institutions would increase more rapidly than the number of Hindus. It is incontestable that the Muhammadans have a good deal of leeway to make up.

The Hon'ble Babu Upendra Lal Ray has asked about certain proposals for the extension of the affiliation of the Chittagong College. This matter has been dealt with by the Vice-Chancellor. These proposals have

my support, but I am sorry to say that it will not be possible to secure the required extension for the next session.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray is in some difficulty about the grants provided in the budget for the Calcutta University. The Vice-Chancellor has already dealt with this. The grant of Rs. 1,15,000 to which he refers is a recurring grant. It has been provided in full in the budget for the current year (see page 52). It has been distributed and will presumably be spent by the University as follows :—

Rs.	
65,000	for the development of the University's work.
30,000	for administration, etc.
20,000	for the Calcutta University Law College.

In introducing the Budget, I explained that a total provision of Rs. 3,44 000 had been made available from the non-recurring Imperial grants, and that this provision included a sum of Rs. 50,000, the unpaid balance of the 10 *lakhs* grant given to the University for hostels attached to private colleges and a sum of Rs. 2,23,000, which represents the contribution made available during the current financial year in part payment of the Rs. 3½ *lakhs*, the balance of certain previous Imperial grants for college hostels which the Government of Bengal have agreed to make over to the University in connection with the hostel provision scheme which they are now taking in hand. I regret that there is nothing provided in the budget which could possibly be devoted to the University College of Science.

The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has mentioned the special difficulties of Calcutta in the matter of primary education and the education of girls. The Hon'ble gentleman says that Government *must* come to the rescue of primary education in Calcutta. He is bitterly disappointed that more progress has not been made in working out a satisfactory scheme for the primary instruction of boys and girls in the municipal area of this city. Well, we have now got Mr. J. N. Roy's report. The picture it represents is a very sordid one, but I cannot say that it has surprised me. The problem is an exceedingly difficult one. It has been neglected so long—now we are up as it were against it with nothing in our pockets. I purposely did not move in the matter until Mr. Roy's survey was completed. We have the survey and now we have got to face the position. I am certainly not going to discuss here the various methods by which we might proceed. Something has, I hope, been accomplished by the public interest which has been aroused.

To turn for a moment to the particular problem of the education of girls on which the Hon'ble Member has laid great stress, I have before me a letter written to me by the Inspectress of Schools after she had been through Mr. Roy's report.

She says :—

"We shall never make any headway with the problem of vernacular education of girls in Calcutta, until land is set apart for the erection of good school buildings. We cannot do our work under present conditions even where the staff is available. In the case of girls I should say we ought to have a scheme whereby a plot of ground is reserved in each ward for one large Hindu school and a model school house should be built to accommodate 300 children. We have gone on in a haphazard way up to the present, and the result is the present astounding condition of education in Calcutta. We shall never get the community to undertake voluntarily the task of providing land and adequate buildings."

This much at least is clear, namely, that the Calcutta school problem is primarily a question of school buildings, but apart from the difficulty of finding funds to provide suitable buildings, I think that the Council will admit that the task of organising a system under which properly-housed schools may take the place of the present wretched hovels is no light one. I hope before I hand over the reins of my present office that I shall have been able to do something which may at least tend in the direction of some solution of this tremendous problem.

brought them to the notice of the Inspectress of Schools. I have before me an extract from an article which appeared in the *Hindu Patriot* on the 13th of December last. The *Patriot* quotes our hon'ble colleague the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan as having said, when he presided at the last prize-giving ceremony of this institution, that while he could understand the apathy or almost antipathy of that extreme section of the England-returned Indian community who look down upon everything pertaining to orthodox Indian or orthodox Hindus as beneath their contempt and in that sense are real enemies of the country, he was at a loss to understand why those who do not feel ashamed to be called orthodox Hindus should be lagging behind and permitting such an institution for the good of their families, their hearths and homes to be running the risk of a financial crisis. I do not know what, if any, effect the Maharaja's plain speaking has had, or what the present condition of the Mahakali Patsala is, but other possible difficulties and considerations apart, I do not feel that the present is an occasion for Government to come forward unasked with an offer of liberal assistance from the public revenues, even if such funds were at the present moment available, which they are not.

The Hon'ble Member has referred to a Committee of Bengali ladies and gentlemen appointed by Government to consider the question of the education of orthodox Hindu girls. 'It would be interesting,' he observes, 'to know whether any practical result has emerged from the deliberations of this Committee.' The Secretary handed me an advance copy of the Committee's report on Friday last. The time which this Committee has taken to formulate its conclusions in spite of the driving of its vigorous Chairman suggests that the problem with which they were appointed to deal is not an easy one and that there are factors of difficulty in the situation other than the tardy ineffectiveness and circumlocution of the Education Department.

The Hon'ble the Maharaja of Nashipur has mentioned *zanana* education. I have prepared a statement, which I shall be happy to hand to the Maharaja, which shows the number of teachers employed directly by the Education Department in the course of the last three years and the places at which they are employed. We have 47 sanctioned appointments, but only 45 of these are at present taken up, as it is not possible to fill the two remaining vacancies. The expenditure on this branch of education during the last financial year amounted to Rs. 31,076, towards which Provincial revenues contributed Rs. 23,206 and Imperial Rs. 10,870. I have explained above that the amount of money assigned to the *zanana* education from the Imperial allotment of Rs. 2,44,000 was Rs. 12,870.

In turning to the education of Muhammadans, I do not propose to follow the Hon'ble Nawab Ali Chaudhuri into his statistics. The figures are interesting and worthy of study, but it is impossible to deal with the large questions which he raises within the compass of this speech. When I said in my last report that it could scarcely be expected that the rate of progress in the case of Muhammadans would continue for an indefinite period to be much more rapid than that of Hindus, I certainly did not mean to suggest that the Moslem community was now suffering from an educational surfeit or to throw out even the obscurest hint that perhaps the remedy which the patient now requires is starvation. I went on to show that an examination of the latest figures indicated that the percentage of Muhammadans in colleges was 7·2 only, in the high stage 14·7, in the middle stage 25·0, in the primary stage 42·6 and passed to the conclusion that there was good ground for expecting that the number of Muhammadans under instruction in public institutions would increase more rapidly than the number of Hindus. It is incontestable that the Muhammadans have a good deal of leeway to make up.

The Hon'ble Babu Upendra Lal Ray has asked about certain proposals for the extension of the affiliation of the Chittagong College. This matter has been dealt with by the Vice-Chancellor. These proposals have

made up our minds to make a contribution of 25 lakhs out of the sanitary grant for the Dacca sewerage scheme. Dacca seems to be an unlucky town. A few days after came the war and then we were deprived of our control over the money. Anxious as we were to help Dacca, last year we promised to give Dacca 25 lakhs by spreading the payment over five years out of the 9½ lakhs of the annual recurring grant for sanitation. Unfortunately, the amount has been reduced, and we shall have no money to give to Dacca till normal financial conditions are restored, and when that time comes, we will no doubt fulfil the promise that has been made. Government promises are never broken.

Besides Dacca, we also have a very large scheme known as the riparian scheme of water-supply for a group of municipalities in the neighbourhood of Calcutta. The details of that scheme are now being worked out, and we may as soon as we have the money be called upon to contribute a large sum towards financing that scheme. Therefore, if we had acted like a man who all of a sudden finds himself in possession of more wealth than he actually requires and squanders without looking to the future, we would have placed ourselves in a very difficult position. I say, therefore, that we have acted as judiciously as we ought to have acted in spending our available resources, but at the same time we have not starved any useful schemes, and whenever such schemes have come up to us we have treated them generously. It is known perhaps that it has been usual in financing schemes of sanitation, such as water-supply or drainage, to demand that two-thirds of the cost should be paid by the local bodies concerned. In practice we have often found it difficult to get two-thirds out of the local bodies, and sometimes it has happened that we have given the usual one-third, and when the scheme has been completed, the actual has exceeded very largely the estimated cost, and in such cases we have always found it necessary to come to the rescue of the municipalities by paying more.

I will just give Hon'ble Members of this Council a few facts and figures. It should be remembered that the non-recurring sanitation grant was mainly intended for expenditure on urban areas, and we have to spend that money mostly in water-works and in drainage generally within municipal areas. So far as rural areas go, there has been no great demand on our funds because our District Boards have got sufficient money for all their purposes. Only two years ago they came into possession of about 29 lakhs over and above their usual income, which gave every District Board more than a lakh of rupees to spend purely on sanitation if they liked. It has been said that District Boards have been hampered because they are asked to realise at least one-third from the villagers who want a tank to be excavated, and therefore the progress in this direction has been slow. This rule has been gradually relaxed. Last year we asked the Boards to take advantage of the cheap labour due to scarcity and vigorously to push forward their schemes of water-supply, relaxing, where necessary, the rule regarding local contribution. Where District Boards, instead of excavating tanks which ultimately became their own property, go to help the owner of a silted up tank the owner may reasonably be asked to make a contribution and sometimes the villagers also, and I think it is quite right that they should do so. Recently, the District Boards have been spending more largely in excavating tanks of which they themselves become the owners. The agreement system by which tanks of other people have been excavated by the District Boards have not been found to be a very great success. Those who say that the District Boards have not been spending enough on sanitation out of the Public Works cess are not quite accurate. We have pressed upon the District Boards to spend largely out of the Public Works cess on water-supply. We have not got the figures for the last year, but we will examine the figures when they are available and from the inquiries that I have made, I believe that they have spent much more largely during the last year than they ever did before. I remember to have read in one of our daily papers an account of what has been done in a neighbouring province. Referring to the Government grant in that province as the result of which it was expected that there would be 5 new tanks excavated

every year, the Government of Bengal was criticised for not having followed this good example. The writer was apparently not aware that only last year, in two districts, where we could find cheap labour on account of the scarcity and where relief measures were necessary, we gave enough money for the excavation of about 100 tanks, and I believe they have all been finished by this time. I therefore claim that we have not neglected the sanitation of the province and have as far as possible tried to rise to our responsibilities. Formerly, the usual amount of Government contribution towards water-works within municipalities was only one-third of the whole cost. We found that all municipalities were not in a position to find the remaining two-thirds, and whenever such a case has arisen we have tried to give a good deal more. My Hon'ble friend Babu Upendra Lal Ray would remember that when there was a scheme of water-supply in the town of Chittagong, it was estimated to cost 3½ lakhs. We first offered to give half, but yet the people of Chittagong would not have the water-works, and we had practically to force it on them by raising our grant to 2 lakhs. Towards the Narainganj water-supply scheme we gave one lakh out of Rs. 1,70,000. Towards the Burdwan drainage scheme we gave 62 per cent. of the total cost. An examination of the various schemes to which Government have given sanction during 1915 will show that out of 21 schemes of water-supply and drainage, Government paid a great deal more than one-third in 14 cases out of 21. It would therefore be incorrect to say now that the usual Government contribution is only one-third. I claim that whenever we have found a municipality unable to afford to pay its full share to carry out a necessary scheme, Government have always come forward to make up the difference. I do not think I need labour this point.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray has referred to the insanitary condition of Krishnagar and to the urgent necessity of a water-supply and drainage scheme there. I may inform my hon'ble friend that about two years ago when I visited that town, I saw that we had either to improve the sanitation of the town or to abandon it. We were prepared to finance very largely a scheme of water-supply as well of drainage. I believe by this time both the schemes would have been taken in hand, but unfortunately Krishnagar has suffered, as many other places have suffered, for want of funds."

The Hon'ble Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"We want the water-works scheme to be taken in hand first."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA, continuing, said :—

"As regards the water-works scheme, the position is this : The two parts in Krishnagar are somewhat differently situated. One part requires the water-supply more urgently and the other the drainage, and the Municipal Commissioners were unable for some time to agree. The people of one part said : 'Why should we contribute for water-works which we do not require?' The people of the other part said the same thing of the drainage scheme. The municipality has resolved to take up both the water-supply and drainage schemes together, and so it is very difficult to act up to the suggestion of my hon'ble friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, that we should take up the water-works scheme first. The two must go together.

A great deal has been said urging us to carry out experiments in regard to malaria. I confess I feel that a great deal more ought to be done than has been done, but at the same time I have not been able to see how Government are to proceed. In these matters we are entirely in the hands of our experts. The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal asks if we have discarded jungle-cutting as an experiment for malaria. My hon'ble friend, Dr. Nil Ratan Sarkar, knows that about three years ago we had an offer from the Government of India of a sum of Rs. 50,000 for carrying on experiments in jungle-cutting. They told us that jungle-cutting had done a great deal of good in the Malay Peninsula. We referred the matter to the Malaria Committee. There was a long debate, and the experts came to the conclusion that jungle-cutting was useless as a preventive against malaria. We had to take the advice,

because the advice came from experts. In the same way we have been told by our expert advisers that the best we can do to improve the general sanitation of the country is to ensure a better water-supply and better drainage and at the top of it all give a plentiful supply of quinine. We have distributed large quantities of quinine, and we have also tried in other ways to improve the sanitation of the country. It is true, as urged by the Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Banerji, that it is not for the non-official members of this Council to suggest what experiments we should carry out, but at the same time we cannot be blamed for not carrying out experiments the utility of which have not been demonstrated to our experts. I had recently a talk with our Sanitary Commissioner, Dr. Bentley, and he told me that he had now got a scheme of flooding areas experimentally as an anti-malarial measure. He has promised to submit his report to the Malaria Committee early, and I am sure we will soon have it."

The Hon'ble Babu SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"Will it be practicable throughout Bengal?"

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"No, the experiment will be tried in one or two places, and if it succeeds, we will try it where practicable in other parts of the country. I am not in a position to discuss the merits of the experiment. I wish only to explain that in the absence of expert knowledge, we are bound to rely upon our advisers who, as experts, know more of the subject than others who have not studied the question. Whether the experiment which we will be asked to carry out will be successful or not, no one can say. Hundreds of experiments have been tried in various directions, some have succeeded, others have not, and our position in this respect is no better. As regards the necessary expenditure, when the resolution was moved asking us to earmark a lakh of rupees for experiments on sanitation, I opposed it, because this year's budget was so framed that we had barely enough for our requirements, and I thought that it was quite possible that the full lakh of rupees might not be required for experiments, and we should not tie our hands by earmarking the whole sum. Dr. Bentley told me that he would not require so large a sum for his experiment. At any rate I gave the assurance to the Council then, and I give the same assurance now, that experiments will not suffer for want of funds."

The Hon'ble Babu SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"May I inquire when the experiment is likely to start?"

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"This is more than I can tell. Dr. Bentley tells me that at the end of the month he is going to put a scheme before Government.

Some hon'ble Members have proposed that the Sanitary Board should be further enlarged. As regards that question the Council is aware that only 3 years ago the Sanitary Board had not in its constitution one single non-official member. We have since added 3 to the Board, and it is now too early to say how far the position of the Board has been strengthened by the addition of these 3 non-official members. Two of these are hon'ble Members of this Council, and when the matter has been fully tried and it is found that non-official members are prepared to give their time and attention to this work, and if their presence on the Board is found to be a source of strength to that body, I believe there will be no objection to enlarge it further by putting more non-official members on the Board. A proposal has also been made that the Sanitary Board should be given certain financial powers, and it has been said that in other provinces they do possess these powers. I do not know that in any province where the expenditure of money is left to the Sanitary Board, the Board consists both of officials and non-officials. I am afraid that those Boards consist wholly of official members, and I am not sure that Government would be prepared in the present constitution of the Board to give it financial powers and to put all the sanitary grant—

and that is what is asked for—into the hands of this Board. We discussed the question some time ago when a proposal to that effect was made by the Board itself, and we came to the conclusion that no difficulty had arisen by reason of Government keeping the control of money in their own hands.

As a matter of fact, all schemes of sanitation pass through the Sanitary Board, and when approved by them, come to Government for financial assistance. I do not know that there have been many cases, or any cases at all, in which the recommendations of the Sanitary Board have been rejected by Government. Therefore, it does not very much matter whether the actual distribution of the money rests with the Board, or whether it is on the advice of the Sanitary Board that Government make the distribution.

Some hon'ble Members have suggested the establishment of a Local Self-Government Board. I do not know whether in these days of decentralisation such a proposal has many supporters. The proposal was not accepted by the Decentralisation Commission, and it was not accepted by the District Administration Committee, who do not seem to have liked the idea of a Central Board sitting in Calcutta with a rod in hand to correct the delinquencies of municipalities and District Boards."

The Hon'ble Babu SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"Lord Morley suggested it."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"That was in 1885. Since then the Secretary of State has not accepted it. I have no personal knowledge of the working of a similar Board in other countries, but one of my hon'ble colleagues * has assured me that this Board is not a very useful body even in England. It is not to the introduction of a centralised system that we look for improvement in the sanitation of this province. We look forward to the establishment of the Union Committees which we contemplate to start early for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the province. When we have a network of Union Committees spread all over the country, when every inch of land in the Presidency will be under one Union Committee or another, when we have placed the whole of the Public Works cess in the hands of these Union Committees, when the rural people discover that their money is being well spent for their own benefit and take an active interest in the promotion of sanitation (and we all know how much depends on the co-operation of the people in carrying out successfully these necessary measures of reform), we may then confidently hope for the solution of the problem. We look to the village Unions and not to the Central Board in Calcutta for the solution. I have no fault to find either with the municipalities or the District Boards in the disbursement of the funds at their disposal. On the contrary, they have generally tried to do their best, and with the enhanced resources at the disposal of the District Boards, I am perfectly certain that so far as the question of water-supply goes, even if left to themselves, in a few years they will solve the problem.

I now turn to a few other criticisms on sanitation. There is one fact which I ought to have mentioned before. The Hon'ble the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad deplores the reduction in the expenditure on sanitation in the budget. One fact that I want to mention, I believe it is known to many hon'ble Members, is this, that the money which we do not spend in any particular year out of the sanitary grant is not lost, but this money goes in to the balances and the whole of it would be available as soon as normal conditions are restored. Therefore, it is only a question of temporary check on expenditure and nothing more.

The Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan complains of the dusty nature of the roads within mufassal municipalities. I had an experience of the town of Burdwan only a few months ago, and I have gone through many other dusty towns. Although I may say that, as regards dust, we are in a better position than most municipal towns in the United Provinces,

* The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell.

Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.

I must say that dusty roads are the most unpleasant feature of municipal administration in the mufassal. The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur suggests that there should be a supply of unfiltered water for the purpose of watering roads and flushing drains. This proposal is one that has been condemned by experts. Here again we are in the hands of experts. We are advised by our Sanitary Engineer that instead of having a double system of filtered and unfiltered water, it is much better, *i.e.*, more economic, to use filtered water. We have taken that advice. We have enlarged the capacity of our water-works so as to provide sufficient water for flushing drains and for other purposes.

The Hon'ble Babu Upendra Lal Ray speaks of a grant of Rs. 57,454 budgeted this year for water-supply in the district of Tippera. My hon'ble friend has committed a slight error. Instead of the money being budgeted this year, the money has been paid in the last year and spent by this time in the excavation of tanks. As regards the Comilla water-works, the scheme has not reached Government yet, and we are not in a position to make any pronouncement regarding it. The Chandpur scheme is suffering from want of money as many other schemes are suffering.

The Hon'ble Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur speaks of the enlargement of and grant of financial powers to the Sanitary Board. I have already dealt with these two points.

I have also referred to what the Hon'ble Maharaja of Nashipur has said about water-supply in rural areas. We have addressed the District Boards on the subject of spending larger sums of money out of the Public Works cess on water-supply. The Maharaja spoke of the necessity of earmarking a fixed portion of the money for that purpose, and referred to the Conference that I had with members of the District Boards on the subject. The result of the Conference was that the official members were all in favour of leaving the expenditure of money entirely to the discretion of the District Boards, while the non-official members, curiously enough, wanted Government to intervene and earmark a definite portion for expenditure on water-supply. We have considered the matter, and although we do not propose to lay down any fixed proportion, we are trying to do what, I believe, would meet the wishes of the Maharaja, that is, we are trying to impress on District Boards the necessity of spending large sums on water-supply and I hope that when we get the accounts of last year, the Maharaja will see that our efforts have not been altogether lost.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray complains of the grant made to the Calcutta Corporation. He says the Corporation is rich and requires no Government help. He refers to the provision for payment of Rs. 42,000 to the Calcutta Corporation for the drainage of the fringe area and Rs. 5,400 for certain experiments on the sewage of Calcutta, which he considers unnecessary, as the Corporation of Calcutta is solvent enough to meet these items of expenditure. It is not necessary for me to discuss any of these grants, as I am informed the first one of Rs. 42,000 is probably the last grant under that head, and no more will be required. At any rate I believe the grant will not be continued much longer. As regards the sum for the treatment of sewage the municipality has very little to do with it. This amount is provided for carrying out experiments on the sewage of Calcutta under Government orders by an expert committee appointed to deal with the matter.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray also thinks that the contribution to the Chittagong Municipality for the pay of its Engineer-Secretary out of the Sanitary Fund is an unjustifiable diversion of the Fund. I do not take the same view. A large place like Chittagong requires an engineer of greater ability and experience than those that municipalities generally employ. We made a grant of Rs. 20,000 to Chittagong in order to help the municipality to improve its sanitary condition. It must be remembered that in Eastern Bengal, Chittagong is a very important town where there is a Government House, which, however, is very seldom used. We first made a contribution of Rs. 20,000, but we have now reduced it to the figure mentioned by my

hon'ble friend, as contribution towards the pay of the Engineer-Secretary of the municipality. We have helped other municipalities, who have not got sufficient funds to make the necessary arraugements for sanitation, to employ proper officers to carry on the work. We have been helping poor municipalities to enable them to employ Sanitary Inspectors. There is no reason why Chittagong should not be as generously treated.

The Hon'ble Rai Prasanna Kumar Ray Bahadur regrets that we were not able to raise the pay of the Munsiffs and the Registration clerks. Others have also referred to the subject. I sympathise with the Munsiffs, but unfortunately they have suffered like others for lack of funds, and so far as the Munsiffs go, there is the additional reason that the matter is under the consideration of the Public Services Commission. As soon as normal conditions are restored, we hope that both the Munsiffs and the Registration clerks will receive the consideration they deserve.

The Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur has spoken of the Court-house at Burdwan. The matter is being considered and there has been some difficulty regarding the site. The site selected was inconvenient to the members of the bar. This was represented to me when I visited Burdwan, and we have asked the opinion of the District Judge on the point, but even if everything is settled soon, it is a question of money and therefore like other schemes it must be deferred.

The Hon'ble Babu Ramtaran Banerji has spoken about the judicial administration of this Presidency. I know that the Budget debate is generally taken advantage of for airing every sort of grievance, but I believe some little connection with the Budget should be required in every case, and I, for myself, do not see how into this Budget debate this question comes in at all. It must be remembered that, though the Budget debate was formerly the only opportunity for non-official members to ventilate their grievances, now that they have a right of moving resolutions on important subjects, I think it only right that all important matters like these should form the subject of resolutions to be debated in Council, rather than that they should be dealt at the Budget debate, and that members of Government should not be expected without previous notice to deal with such matters on behalf of Government. I therefore do not intend to discuss the merits of the points raised by the Hon'ble Member on this occasion.

I now turn to the speech of my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-ul Haq. It has always been difficult to meet him, and, in fact, I find that on this occasion, he has gone even beyond his speeches on previous occasions. His speech will be answered, a good deal of it, by my hon'ble colleague, Mr. Lyon, but I think I should refer to one or two matters with which I am more directly concerned. I shall speak of the Muhammadan Arts College and of the Hostel in College Street. My hon'ble friend himself knows that we had acquired a plot of land for the Anglo-Persian department of the Madrasah so that a College building might be constructed on the site of the Anglo-Persian department. My hon'ble friend expects us to proceed in the way of a private gentlemen who makes up his mind to build a school at night, purchases the land the next day, and forthwith goes on with the work. But there are certain inconvenient rules by which Government are bound, and in an important matter like the foundation of an Arts College in Calcutta, I think Government would have been guilty of indecent haste if they did not consult all those interested in the proposal. The scheme requires, I believe, an expenditure of 13 lakhs non-recurring and a recurring expenditure of something like Rs. 1,40,000. Government, however anxious they may have been to give the Muhammadans an Arts College, could not disregard rules of financial control and establish a college within six months of the proposal. We had first of all to ask the Director of Public Instruction to examine the scheme from an educational point of view and to work out the details of the expenditure. We had to consult other educational experts and had also to ask the Public Works Department to submit plans and estimates of the building. We had, as I have said, also to consult those interested in Muhammadan education. We had to go up to the Government of India and to the Secretary

of State for sanction. When the complete scheme was worked out, we knew perfectly well that under the present conditions it was hopeless to ask the Government of India to finance such a large scheme. The scheme is therefore still more or less in abeyance. But we have not given it up. Government cannot be expected to proceed at the breakneck pace at which my hon'ble friend would wish them to proceed. He has also complained that the hostel in College Street has made no progress, and that we are now exactly where we were before. I do not want to follow him in his simile of the oilman's bullock, but I do say that it is not correct to say that we are where we were before. We have not yet built a house for the students, but what have we done? Have we been idle? No. We have, to avoid delay, rented a house at a cost of over Rs. 400 a month for the accommodation of Muhammadan students. I wish my hon'ble friend had made an acknowledgment of what Government had done in this direction."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ said :—

"I mentioned that in my speech."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"It was a very half-hearted acknowledgment.

We have a warm appreciation from the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chawdhuri which I greatly appreciate, and his well-directed criticisms are likely to do real good. I think the Hon'ble Mr. Haq should have appreciated our anxiety to help Muhammadan students. As we could not build a new hostel near College Square soon, we rented a house. It makes no difference so far as the students themselves are concerned. As regards his demand for more Persian and Arabic teachers, Mr. Hornell has said how that matter now stands. It is certainly one which requires to be taken up, and I am sure the Director of Public Instruction will do all that can be done in this direction.

There is only one more word that I would say to the Hon'ble Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq. He admits that the present constitution of the Council is not unfavourable to Eastern Bengal. He has been good enough to pay a compliment to all of us as being sympathetic to Eastern Bengal, but yet when he comes to details, he thinks that it is one of the worst in its dealings with the problems of Eastern Bengal. I do not see the consistency between the two. The correct conclusion was that with so many friends if things were not faring as well as he expected with Eastern Bengal and Muhammadans generally, that there must have been more difficulties in the way than he was aware of. I do not wish to take up the time of the Council any longer ; I have tried to explain all the more important points, and if I have missed any points in the course of my remarks, I am sorry for the omission."

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council was then adjourned to Tuesday, the 4th April, 1916, at 11 A.M.

A. M. HUTCHISON,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal, and
Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council (Offg.).

CALCUTTA,
The 24th April, 1916.

B. S. Press—18-5-1916—74J—350—J. L. C.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in Government House on Tuesday, the 4th April, 1916, at 11 A.M.

Present :

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., *Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I., *Vice-President.*

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA.

The Hon'ble MR. N. D. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble COL. W. R. EDWARDS, C.B., C.M.G.

The Hon'ble MR. F. J. MONAHAN.

The Hon'ble MR. J. LANG.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. K. C. DE, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. L. BIRLEY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble MR. C. H. BOMPAS.

The Hon'ble MR. B. C. MITRA.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNELL.

The Hon'ble MR. C. F. PAYNE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. B. H. PANTON.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHERJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. S. C. WILLIAMS.

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR.

The Hon'ble RAJA SHOSHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHAUDHURI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble BABU RAMTARAN BANERJI.

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. E. H. BRAY.

The Hon'ble MR. A. BIRKMYRE.

The Hon'ble MR. W. T. GRICE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. MARTIN.

The Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARRAF HOSSAIN.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur.

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAI PRASANNA KUMAR RAY BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble CHAUDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN.

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY.

DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL FOR 1916-17.

[*The Discussion of the Budget was resumed.*]

The Hon'ble MR. LYON said :—

"My Lord, I have no desire to detain the Council at any length this morning, but there are two or three subjects which have been dealt with in the speeches of Hon'ble Members on which I would like to say a few words. The first is connected with questions which have been raised by representatives of the Muhammadan community with reference to the action of Government on behalf of that community. We have had, what I think I may say without reproach, a very violent speech from one Hon'ble Member on this subject. But I think that by the somewhat unwelcome terms in which he referred to the members of this Government by way of praise—our sympathies are, I hope, more widely distributed than he would suggest—he must have convinced members of this Council that there was reason to doubt whether his statement of facts was entirely accurate. I think, my Lord, that I am within the mark when I say that such doubts are well founded. It will be found on examination that the projects which he declared to have been shelved have in nowise been shelved ; he was incorrect in saying that Dacca as the second capital of this province has been deserted ; while, as regards the alleged neglect of Muhammadan education, I need only refer him to the speech of the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri for a refutation of that suggestion. As I shall have to deal with the main subjects referred to by him in considering the speech of the Hon'ble the Nawab Sahib, I shall not reply in detail to his speech, but before leaving it, I would ask him to consider his position. That, as I understand it, stands much in this wise. The elevation of the masses belonging to the Muhammadan community, and

the satisfaction of their just aspirations are, as this Council knows well, matters of very great difficulty. They cannot be secured by the Government acting alone, without the co-operation and unselfish labour of the leaders of the community itself. The Hon'ble Member has acknowledged that this Government are well disposed towards his co-religionists, and I leave it to him to reflect whether he advances the cause of his community, or fulfils his duty as one of its leaders, by confining himself to the making of speeches consisting almost solely of unrestrained denunciations of his friends based upon flimsy and inaccurate premises.

I would now turn to the speech of the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri. His was an interesting and earnest appeal to us to remember the cause of his co-religionists and of the Eastern Bengal population. It was a speech which was not devoid of strong criticism of the action of Government, but that criticism was stimulative; it was criticism which was of a nature to keep Government up to the mark, and as such was welcome to us as to all who wish that community and that cause well. He spoke of the disappointment of Dacca in its hope of becoming one of the capitals of this province, but I think he overstated his case. We have no intention of giving up or going back on the promises which have been made to Eastern Bengal in this respect. I may point out to him that among the first of the works which we took up in Dacca after this Government was constituted was the construction of the Secretariat building, which will be the permanent home of the Government and its offices when they go to Dacca each year. We have at the same time overcome the difficulty caused by the influx of Government officials during that time by building residences for the Secretaries and heads of departments. It is no part of our policy to leave that Secretariat and those residences empty. We have already held two meetings of this Council in Dacca, and it will not escape Hon'ble Members acquainted with Dacca that we have been endeavouring to render the residence of the Governor worthy of his occupation for the two months of the year during which he will reside at Dacca.

The Hon'ble Member has also referred to the removal of the Survey Classes from the School of Engineering in Dacca, but I would remind him that those classes have not been removed from Eastern Bengal. They have been transferred from Dacca to the neighbourhood of Comilla. The reasons for transferring them are well known, and the very fact that he has in a later sentence complained of the extra expenditure shows that we have been endeavouring to render the curriculum and the whole course of training in the new Survey School better than those we gave to the pupils at Dacca. We have established in the neighbourhood of Comilla a good Survey School, where a good and full course of surveying is taught, and I think it will be found that that school is more valuable to Eastern Bengal and to the whole province than the old classes that were held at Dacca. He has referred also to the harm that he says has been done to the School of Engineering by the removal of the Electrical Branch. We had that matter carefully examined, and examined with special sympathy for the feelings of the people of Eastern Bengal, who wanted to get an electrical training for their young men in closer proximity to their homes, but we discovered that the very large expenditure involved in the maintenance of this Branch would be unwarranted at the present moment. We were unable to give an electrical education there which would compare in any way with that which can be given at Sibpur. The consequence was that we removed this class, which had not proved very popular, very few students having come to it. At the same time, to show that there is no idea of allowing the School of Engineering to degenerate, we are about to build new premises for it there, for which we have allocated 5 lakhs of rupees. I think that when that school is established, it will undoubtedly be a boon to the province.

I turn now to the question of the Dacca University, and while not deprecating criticism as to such delays as may have occurred, I would remind Hon'ble Members that the establishment of a new form of university, a residential and teaching university, in any corner of the world, is bound to be carried out with some delay, if it is to be established on sound lines. With

reference to the Dacca University, I think it may interest the Council if I explain exactly how matters stand. After the Dacca University Committee had prepared its report, the general scheme was submitted to the Government of India, and eventually to the Secretary of State, for sanction. Sanction was received and we were told to prepare the detailed plans and estimates which were required to enable us to carry out the material part of the scheme. These plans and estimates took some time to prepare. The Government Architect dealt with them with great care, and admirable plans and estimates resulted. But when these were sent up for sanction it was decided, after some discussion, that they could not be proceeded with until the question of the constitution of the University, the basis on which legislation would have to be enacted, had been fully and properly dealt with. Now the Dacca University Committee had not dealt with that part of the scheme with the same fulness with which they had dealt with the rest of it, and some grave difficulties arose, including many matters of policy which it had been impossible for so limited a committee to deal with finally The consequence was that this part of the scheme took some time to determine. We had hoped that during that time we might have gone on with the buildings, but this was considered undesirable. We therefore worked out the complete constitution, which has now been sanctioned. I may note that one of the most difficult points dealt with was the financial basis and independence of the University, and it may be well understood that that matter occasioned a good deal of difference of opinion. Well, the constitution has now been settled, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, and I understand that a Bill has been prepared which will be introduced into the Imperial Council at an early date.

Now, as to the question of funds. It is obvious that at the present time it is necessary for us to curtail to some degree the immediate requirements of the Dacca University, if we do not wish to postpone its initiation until some time after the conclusion of the war. We have had accordingly to prepare a slightly modified scheme which will merely be the preliminary to the carrying out of the whole scheme, and which will not itself block that scheme. We have the funds for this modified scheme in our balances, but, as every one knows, we cannot cut into those balances, and consequently it is not possible for us to proceed this year with our scheme for the Dacca University, unless we are allowed by special permission of the Government of India to devote a small portion of our balances to this object. It remains to be seen whether we shall be permitted to do this. The cost of the modified scheme amounts to over 38 lakhs, the cost of the total scheme amounting to about 59 lakhs. But I wish to point out that there is one favourable result of the delay which has been caused. We have been granted by the Government of India a recurring grant of Rs. 6,45,000, which after four years will be reduced to Rs. 5,45,000. That grant we are accumulating for the purpose of capital expenditure, until we require the money for the current expenditure on the University, so that we shall benefit to this extent by the delay, that when we are able to proceed with the scheme, we shall have a larger capital sum to deal with, and I think that, in consequence, we may be able to go somewhat beyond the modified scheme that has been sanctioned.

Connected with this subject is the question of the Muhammadan Hall, which has been alluded to by the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, and I think I must commence with the statement that we are in a very much better position now, as regards the provision to be made for the Muhammadan community in Dacca in this respect, than when Sir Charles Bayley laid the foundation-stone of the Muhammadan Hall. I quite accept everything the Hon'ble Nawab has said as to the trouble that was taken to raise money for the Muhammadan Hall, the promises that we made and the aspirations connected with that Hall; but I think he will agree that it is obvious that when, instead of a Muhammadan Hall to accommodate the Moslem students of the Dacca College, we proposed to build a Muhammadan College, at a very much greater cost, accommodating a very much larger number of Muhammadan students, and to provide also

eventually for the institution of a faculty of Islamic studies, we were proposing to do a very great deal more for the Muhammadan community than was intended when we laid the foundation-stone of the Muhammadan Hall. That the construction of the Muhammadan Hall has been deferred because we have now a larger scheme in hand is undoubtedly a fact, but I think it is only a superficial view which would lament that delay in view of what we hope to do for the Muhammadan community eventually. I may say that the establishment of a Muhammadan College is in the very forefront of the Dacca University scheme. We have put it into our modified scheme by proposing to utilise the old Secretariat building, and we have actually built already a great hall at the back of the Secretariat which will serve as a dining hall for Muhammadan students. We have also a scheme in hand, which I hope we may be able to carry out, for the establishment of a Muhammadan College in advance of the University, directly we can get some slight relaxation from financial restrictions, and overcome the difficulty of recruiting a proper establishment and staff for the college. When these difficulties are surmounted, we think we shall be able to establish a Muhammadan College, even before we can establish the Dacca University. In view of these facts, I believe I am right in thinking that the Muhammadan community will not eventually regret the delay or the changes of policy with reference to the Muhammadan Hall.

I shall now refer to some of the remarks made by Members of Council dealing with other departments in my charge. A reference was made by two Hon'ble Members to our issue of a weekly sheet of war news on which an expenditure of Rs. 7,000 has been budgeted. I do not think there is anything really controversial in this matter. We carefully considered the great danger of the prevalence and constant circulation of false rumours concerning the war. These false rumours were not always met by the press of the province, not from any want of will, but because the newspapers do not circulate quite so far as we could wish. We consequently started a very unpretentious little sheet, containing almost exclusively the telegrams received by the Viceroy from the Secretary of State and illustrated by small maps. We also publish a Hindi version of this weekly news-sheet, without the maps. These have been circulated in the widest possible manner. We send them round to punchayets and villages; we send them into corners of the province where practically no newspaper ever goes. We do not think that we have in the least interfered with the circulation of newspapers, as this weekly sheet is limited to the circulation of war news. At the same time it meets a real want and is the means of contradicting the pernicious rumours which were extremely prevalent before it was issued. We have good reason to believe that this unpretentious little sheet has attained some success, and that it has helped to counteract the rumours to which I have alluded, and I think that in view of these facts the small expenditure incurred cannot well be objected to.

The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur referred in his speech to the Jail warders and the sum of Rs. 50,000 which has been provided for the improvement of their position. I may tell him that this amount is to be devoted mainly to an increase in the pay of the warders, though there is some small increase in establishment also. We have known for some years that the warder establishment was extremely discontented. Some slight alleviation has been given to this establishment in various ways, but we found that it was practically impossible for us to get good men to serve as warders unless we raised their pay to the general level of the pay of the police. I need scarcely suggest to the Council how very dangerous it was to have a discontented warder establishment, and how greatly it added to the difficulties of proper jail administration. I am glad to say that we hope now to be able to do something for a very long-suffering force.

The Hon'ble the Rai Bahadur has also referred to police matters, and the Hon'ble Mr. Bray also made a reference to the same subject. It was noted there has been some reduction in the cost of the village police, but this is a

purely nominal reduction. The amount budgeted for last year was only Rs. 8,000, and it was increased to Rs. 27,000, because of the necessity that arose for remitting, owing to floods and distress, some of the taxes which had been imposed to maintain this force. We had, in consequence, to meet a larger portion of the cost. We hope that this will not happen during the current year and the allotment has again been reduced to its normal figure.

The Hon'ble the Rai Bahadur also made some enquiries as to the position of the force and their prospects. I think I need not trouble the Council with an examination of the detailed figures of the past few years, but they show that a very great deal has been done. There are now several districts in charge of Indian members of the police force, and their pay as Superintendents of Police rises from Rs. 600 to Rs. 900. There is also a force of 21 Deputy Superintendents, whose pay rises from Rs 250 to Rs. 500. I may point out that 12 or 15 years ago none of these appointments was practically available to Indian Police officers. There has also been an improvement in the pay of sub-inspectors, head-constables and constables, and similar improvements have also been made in the police force in Calcutta. I am extremely glad that the expenditure on police has been so cordially welcomed in this Council. I can assure the Hon'ble Mr. Bray that we are doing all that we can for the police, in spite of the holding up of our balances. It is obvious that big new reforms in any service must mean an invasion of those balances, and that we cannot enter upon large new capital or recurring expenditure on the immediate revenue of the year. We are glad that we have been able to do something, but it is our great regret that we cannot do more. As an indication of our difficulties I may note that there was attached to the Inspector-General of Police's budget for this year a list of new schemes devised for the improvement of the prospects and condition of the police force. The schemes numbered 111, many of them large schemes. We have been able to provide for some out of the revenue for this year, but it is obvious that, much as we appreciate the value of these schemes, it is entirely impossible for us to deal with them all, as we should have liked to, and in the background of these schemes there was one which greatly affects the contentment of the mufassil, and that is the scheme for the rehousing of the thanas and police officers throughout the province. Unfortunately the cost of this scheme was very nearly 1½ crores. I merely point this out to show with what large demands we have had to deal.

The actual increase in the expenditure on the police during 1913-14 over that of the previous year was 9½ lakhs, and a further increase was incurred during 1914-15 amounting to 8¼ lakhs. We have never refused to appoint extra police when required, and have dealt with all the most urgent needs, but we have had to postpone some of our reforms. The police and its work do not want for sympathy at the hands of Government, and I feel sure that the members of the police force know it. We have indicated in no uncertain manner how highly we value their work, and how anxious we are to meet their needs and alleviate the hardships of their lot. In spite of the necessities of the year, this Budget of 1916-17 is evidence of this attitude, and we are as anxious as any Member of this Council can be, to take up and carry through all the great schemes of improvement that have been laid before us".

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said:—

"My Lord, I shall try to be very brief in my remarks. Unlike many Members of this Council I do not associate the art of budget-making with the practice of oratory. To us in the Financial Department, budget-making is a severely practical operation. I shall deal with the departments which I have the honour to represent in this Council, that is to say, Revenue, Excise, Medical, Commerce, Public Works and Emigration; but before doing so, it is perhaps right that I should make one or two general remarks. It was told

of a distinguished prelate of the Anglican Church that whenever he interviewed a visitor he made to him the same three remarks. The first remark was :—'Who are you?', the second remark was 'What do you want?' and the third remark was 'No.' This year, much against our will, this has been more or less the attitude of the Financial Department. By strict adherence to the principle which I have just indicated, we have been able to keep our expenditure at a figure somewhat less than our provincial income. In fact, we have a balance on the right side of a little over 2 lakhs of rupees.

The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has drawn our attention to these two lakhs of rupees and has asked us whether they are available for provincial expenditure. This item did not escape our notice. We drew the attention of the Government of India to this unexpended 2 lakhs, and we asked them whether we might consider it to be at the disposal of the Local Government. The answer was in the negative, and for the present we must leave it at that.

We are grateful to the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur for drawing our attention to the question of the earmarked grants and the existing balances in these grants. He made a useful suggestion which we were glad to comply with. We have caused to be printed and placed in the hands of the Members of Council a list showing exactly how all these grants stand. I wish this suggestion had been made a little earlier, so that we could have placed this statement sooner in the hands of the Council. This brings me to another general question which several Hon'ble Members have discussed. They complain that they have not been given sufficient time to study the budget and that we have not supplied them with sufficient information to formulate their resolutions and to prepare their speeches. This is an old question which His Excellency took up personally, as you all know. The procedure of this Council was reformed within the last few years, and reformed in such a way that I believe there is no provincial Council in India which affords such facilities to the non-official members for examining the budget. On the 2nd of December and again on the 11th January we had meetings of the Finance Committee. Finally, on the 28th February we prepared the amended draft of the Financial Statement, and we circulated it to all Members of Council. That, my Lord, was rather more than six weeks ago. During these six weeks we would have been delighted to give any information to any Hon'ble Members who had come to us either in the Financial Department or in the administrative department concerned. So far as I can ascertain, during these six weeks only three Hon'ble Members applied to us for any information. If Hon'ble Members would apply to us more, we shall be glad to give them more information. During the ten days set apart for formulating resolutions, and during the six weeks set apart for general study of the budget, we were prepared to give the fullest information to any Hon'ble Member who came to our offices.

Of the two further criticisms which have been offered one is that the detailed figures of expenditure of the expiring year have not been placed in the hands of the Hon'ble Members. The reason for this is very simple. They are not yet in my own hands, and I do not expect to have them for several months. I cannot understand how some members who have experience of the Delhi Council have assured us that in Delhi the fullest detailed figures for the expenditure of the expiring year are placed in the hands of the Council. This is a physical impossibility, for not to go any further the debate in the Delhi Council takes place some time in March when the expenditure for the expiring year is still going on."

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA OF NASHIPUR said :—

"I meant the figures for the previous year."

Mr. Beatson Bell; Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur.

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL :—

"They can be supplied yearly to any Hon'ble Member. We are now discussing the budget for 1916-17; we have not got the full figures for 1915-16, but the figures for 1914-15 have been published long ago. I shall see that in future budgets the figures of the penultimate year are given to any member who wants to study them."

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA OF NASHIPUR said :—

"I also asked for the figures of the departmental budgets."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL :—

"I am just coming to that point. No Hon'ble Member has referred to the fact that this question was discussed last year. I have really nothing to add to what I said on that occasion. Departmental budgets are documents of an enormous mass; we prepare them in three editions, and they are not finally passed until the budget as a whole is passed, for until we know how much money the Government of India is going to give us, we cannot say how much we can allot to each of the departments which make up this Government. As soon as the departmental budgets are printed copies can be obtained on application by any Hon'ble Member. Moreover, during the six weeks between the introduction of the amended Financial Statement and the date when the budget is discussed in Council, although these departmental budgets are still in manuscript, we shall be glad to give any Hon'ble Member any specific information which he desires regarding any item in their contents. What I do say is this, that we would not be justified in incurring the labour and expense of printing these departmental budgets while they are still in an uncertain condition.

I now turn to the criticisms which have been made upon the budgets of the different departments which I have the honour to represent. Several members have placed their fingers upon the figure against general administration, and they have pointed out that when economy was going on all round it was a misfortune that there was no reduction against this item. As a matter of fact, there has been no increase against general administration. Certain items of expenditure which had hitherto been scattered about among different heads of the budget have now been brought into their proper classification under the head of General Administration. There is only one real increase under this head, and that is the salary of the proposed Director of Industries. I do not think any Hon'ble Member will criticise this small increase in general administration. As a matter of fact although the figure for general administration stands exactly as it stood before, this does not mean that officials of all grades are drawing the same net emoluments as they drew in the previous year. On the contrary, we have, like every one else, to pay larger income-tax. The net emoluments of this front bench have been reduced by the substantial sum of Rs. 6,000 odd per annum. The same thing has happened to other members of the various services. We welcome these reductions and we only wish they had been larger.

Turning to land revenue, I shall first refer to the subject which has been uppermost in my mind and in the minds of many others during the last 9 or 10 months. I refer, of course, to the distress which is unfortunately prevalent particularly in the districts of Tippera and Bankura. When I see it insinuated in the public press that we have been niggardly towards starving people in order to pour money upon 'pet departments' I wonder whether people know that during the past year we have devoted 23½ lakhs to the relief of distress. We have given 18 lakhs as loans, 2 lakhs for relief works and 3½ lakhs on gratuitous relief of different kinds. This makes up the total of 23½ lakhs. Apart from this, there are large sums which have been expended by the District Boards from their ordinary income, and large sums have been spent by the Court of Wards Estate in Sarail. Lastly, as the House already knows, private persons and private organisations have come

nobly forward and have supplemented what has been done by Government and District Boards and the Court of Wards. Taking public and private contributions together, we have probably expended something over 30 lakhs in relieving the distress of the people who have been suffering from flood and drought. I am glad to say that in the district of Tippera we are now seeing light through the trouble. As I explained before, the distressed area in Tippera is fortunately not dependent on a single crop. In addition to the winter rice crop it has an autumn crop of rice and also an autumn crop of jute. There has already been some rain in the district of Tippera and if, please God, we have rain next month, the distressed part of this district will reap its usual *aus* crop and its usual jute crop and the distress will practically be over. We trust that in the district of Tippera there will be little or no distress after the month of July. I am sorry to say that in Bankura the conditions are otherwise. Bankura is a district in which the autumn crop is almost negligible. Therefore distress will go on until the winter crop is reaped, that is to say, some time between the Poojas and Christmas. In fact, the distress in Bankura will last approximately until November or December. The latest figures that we have for Tippera show that about 1,000 people are on our works, and that 6,000 people are getting gratuitous relief. We hope that these figures will gradually fall, but in Bankura the figures are much larger. In Bankura we have at present 18,000 people upon our works and 21,000 upon gratuitous relief. We fear that these figures will rise still higher in the months to come.

Our policy, as the House is aware, is to see that no one starves. In the district of Bankura fortunately the people, men and women alike, are used to doing earthwork. I have visited a great many of the relief works in that district, and I saw whole families working together. I was much struck by their healthy appearance and by the excellence of all the arrangements. Those who are able to work are given work, and those who are unable to work, the aged and the crippled, are receiving gratuitous relief, partly from our own funds and partly from the generosity of private persons ; and we are continuing to give out agricultural loans, so that the peasantry may be able to cultivate their lands between now and the harvesting of the winter crop.

I have been asked what is the allotment in the Budget for the coming year for agricultural and land improvement loans, in other words, what is known as *takkavi* loans."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said:—

"Is the Hon'ble Member aware that there is famine in the Kishoreganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district?"

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL :—

"I am aware that there is distress in Kishoreganj and we have given funds not only to Kishoreganj, but also to the Netrakona subdivision of the same district. Wherever there is real distress it is our duty to see that steps are taken to relieve it. The figure which I have quoted, 23½ lakhs, covers not only Bankura and Tippera but also other distressed areas in the province. I was speaking just now of agricultural loans. Under this head we have provided for the coming year an allotment of 6 lakhs. If this turns out to be insufficient, I can assure the House that we shall take prompt steps to increase the allotment. Then as regards the ordinary expenditure on relief works and gratuitous relief, we have hitherto met this from our provincial resources, aided, as I have said, by private help. We have done this up to the close of the expiring financial year, but after mature consideration we have come to the conclusion that we are no longer justified in relying entirely upon provincial resources and private charity. We have therefore with effect from the 1st April declared that the district of Bankura is in a state of famine. This does not mean that we regard the measures which we have hitherto

taken as in any way inadequate. The work which has been done in that district by all concerned, by Mr. Cook, the Collector, and by all the classes of officials and non-officials, has been admirable. The good work will be continued exactly on the lines on which it is progressing. But by this formal declaration of famine we are now placed in a position to meet expenditure not only from the sources already indicated but also from the Famine Insurance Fund. This Government has a credit balance in that fund of about 4 lakhs of rupees. We have come to the conclusion that owing to the serious state of affairs in the district of Bankura, we are no longer justified in shutting our eyes to these 4 lakhs. With the approval of the Government of India we intend to utilise this money as a supplement to our ordinary revenue in order to see that no one dies of hunger in any part of the province.

I now turn to one or two other subjects in connection with the Revenue Department. My friend the Hon'ble Mr. Ariff has twitted me with being inconsistent because I stopped the survey and settlement operations in Jessore, after what I said in Council this time last year. As a matter of fact, what I said in Council last year was that it was bad policy to stop any settlement work which was actually in progress. In Jessore, fortunately, we received the mandate for economy just at the time when our work was about to begin. We therefore decided to refrain from beginning it. I fail to see where the inconsistency comes in.

Several gentlemen have referred to the Agricultural Department, and I am sure Mr. Blackwood will thank them for the generous way in which they have referred to the work which has been done and which is being done.

Special attention has been drawn by several Hon'ble Members to the question of the demonstration staff. We have recently given this question a good deal of consideration. Up till now the work of demonstration and the work of preparing the jute forecast were done by the same staff. We have found that this system was not altogether satisfactory. We have therefore decided that the staff which prepares the jute forecast shall be entirely separate from the staff which demonstrates agricultural improvements to the ryots. We are sure that this is for the good of the ryot and that improvements will be demonstrated to them in a more thorough manner. In the coming year apart from, and distinct from, the forecast staff, there will be 62 demonstrators. These demonstrators are all Indians and are men of practical training. Each demonstrator will work within his own chaukidari union so that he will work among his own friends and neighbours. Above these 62 Indian demonstrators, there are district agricultural officers. They are also Indians and they are professionally trained men. We have not yet been able to appoint district agricultural officers for every district. At present there are eight of these officers. Sooner or later we hope to see a district agricultural officer in every district. Although we have not yet got an agricultural officer in every district, we have a highly trained Indian officer to supervise the work in each of the five divisions. Most of these Indian Divisional Officers have been trained in European or Foreign Universities. I mention these facts, as there seems to be an impression that all superior posts in the Agricultural Department are being reserved for Europeans. This is very far from being the case. At present we have only five Europeans in the department. Two are Deputy Directors, and three are experts working in the Laboratory at Dacca. When funds are available we hope to increase both the European and the Indian staff, but the bulk of the staff is Indian and will remain Indian.

The Forest Department is also under me and a few criticisms have been made about it. If I may say so, they are not very helpful. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Musharraff Husain has suggested that the Forest Department should give up its stereotyped way of work. Possibly so, but unless he gives us some practical suggestions as to how this stereotyped way should be reformed, it is not easy to see how we can meet his wishes. I wish

the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur had followed the example of the Hon'ble Babu Upendra Lal Ray who made a really practical suggestion for the Agricultural Department—I mean his suggestion that an Agricultural Museum should be attached to the seed store of each division. I have noted that suggestion and shall try to act upon it.

I turn now to the subject of Co-operative Societies. It has been suggested that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies should be placed in direct subordination to the Director of Agriculture. This experiment was tried for several years and it was found, on the whole, to be better that the Registrar should work as an independent officer directly under Government. We have decided, however, that he should work in close co-operation with the Director of Agriculture. This subject has recently received marked attention from both these officers and a scheme has been formulated by which the co-operation will be still closer than it has been in the past.

I now turn to the subject of excise. When I last spoke on this subject to the House, I pointed out that the consumption was declining in every branch of intoxicant. Since then I have had figures for another month and the decline is still going on. Once more I congratulate my friends of the Temperance party, but although I congratulate them upon this decline in the consumption, I cannot altogether agree with the tone of some of the remarks. One Hon'ble Member said that he viewed with alarm any increase in the receipts. As Financial Member I can hardly countersign this proposition. I welcome any reduction in consumption, but I cannot at the same time welcome any reduction in receipts. The policy of Government is to have the minimum of consumption coupled with the maximum of receipts. I wonder if Hon'ble Members realise that, if our excise income disappeared, about two-thirds of the schools in the province would be in danger of being closed.

I now turn to one small point in connection with the Excise Department. The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has asked for specific information regarding the item of refund of license fees in the town of Calcutta. I am glad to give him the figures. In respect of country liquor the refunds of license fees amounted to Rs. 13,324, and in respect of opium the refunds amounted to Rs. 35,166. The reason for the refunds in the case of country liquor was the difficulty in opening shops at the sites which had been selected by the Board which now deals with these matters. It was necessary therefore to make some concession to those who are unable to open their shops on the due date. In the case of opium shops the refunds were due to the operation of the restricted system of supply. The Hon'ble Member also asked what reduction has been made in the number of shops in Calcutta. Considerable reductions were made a year ago. I have not got the figures with me, but if the Hon'ble Member desires, I shall give him the exact figures. In the coming year the number of shops in Calcutta is practically the same as in the expiring year. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the licensing board and in particular the non-official members for the helpful way in which they have worked and are working. It has been a real pleasure to work with these gentlemen. They now understand our difficulties and we understand their point of view.

Turning to the Commercial Department, most of the remarks on this head have dealt with our proposal to have a Director of Industries and to place at his disposal the sum of one lakh of rupees. If the House asks me who is to be our Director of Industries and what he is to do with this lakh of rupees, I can frankly say that at present I have not got the least idea. We have got this item in our budget and it has been passed by the Government of India and on the top of it comes the proposal for a Royal Commission to examine the whole question not only in Bengal but also in other parts of India. It is obvious that what we shall do in the coming year must largely depend on what the Government of India think it would be proper for us to do in view of the advent of this Royal Commission. Subject to this restriction,

we are most anxious to get the best man possible at the earliest date possible, and we want to give him a fairly free hand to devote the money wherever he sees prospects of success.

I now turn to the Medical Department, and am glad to welcome the remarks of several Hon'ble Members on the subject of the Belgachia College. The views of this Government in connection with the Belgachia College were clearly stated in the Senate by Sir Pardey Lukis and these are still our views. We sincerely trust that the authorities of the Belgachia College will raise the necessary funds within the stipulated date and if they do so they may be sure that Government will carry out its pledge both in the letter and the spirit.

Another subject in the Medical Department to which allusion has been made is the proposal for giving vernacular instruction in Western medicine. As the House is aware, a resolution on this subject was recently carried in the Delhi Council on the motion of my friend, the Hon'ble Dr. M. N Banerji. We are at present awaiting from the Government of India a circular letter on the subject of that motion. I cannot say what action we shall take until we get that letter. Naturally, we shall view the question in all its aspects with a sincere desire to do the best both for the country and for the profession.

Another Medical subject to which allusion has been made is the Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi. We are asked why this Government should contemplate giving a large contribution to this asylum. The answer is very simple. It is proposed to build a large asylum at Ranchi, with one wing for Europeans and another wing for Indians. Three-quarters of the inmates of this asylum will unfortunately come from the province of Bengal. In fact, it will be a joint institution for the two provinces in the most healthy and suitable place which the two Governments could select. It is therefore obvious that we must pay a very considerable portion of the cost. I may say that it has been a source of genuine grief to this Government that the work of this asylum has had to be postponed because of financial considerations. Other people are able to speak for themselves and to agitate for the relief of their wants, but these unfortunate people, who are housed at present in very unsatisfactory surroundings and who are totally unable to express their wants, must command the very deepest sympathy from everyone in this House, official and non-official. We trust that when the financial horizon brightens this will be the first work to be undertaken.

I now turn to the Public Works Department. The Hon'ble Babu Upendra Lal Ray has asked me to make a definite pronouncement as to what is to happen to the town of Noakhali. I remember a Sanskrit proverb which says that there are three things with which it is hard to meddle—*Nadi, Nari and Nakhi*—that is rivers, women and beasts with claws. If it is hard to meddle with these three things it is still harder to make a definite pronouncement about them, especially when the river concerned is like the river at Noakhali. It is more than a river, it is practically the Bay of Bengal. If the Hon'ble Member has stood, as I have stood, on the shore and watched the terrible erosion which is going on, he would hesitate to ask me or anybody else to make a definite pronouncement as to what is going to happen. It is impossible to put up protective works. They would probably cost about ten times the value of the land which is being washed away and at the end they would probably disappear into the ocean. But although we cannot make a definite pronouncement we have been making very careful inquiries and have been taking very careful measurements. I am very glad to say that from the latest returns it seemed that the tide was turning. The erosion was not nearly so rapid as it was a few years ago, in fact it showed marked signs of abatement. I recently caused special calculation to be made and I am glad to say that if the abatement goes on as shown in those returns the town of Noakhali will be saved. Erosion will cease altogether several hundred yards before the town is reached. I do not promise that it will be so. The river may change its mind at any moment,

rapid erosion may again set in. For the next few years we can only 'wait and see.'

I now turn to what the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray said about the Bidhyadhari river and Tolly's Nullah. As the House is aware, we had to stop practically all new work, but there was one new work which we felt bound to take up and that was the construction of the spill area in the Bidyadhari river. This will cost more than a lakh of rupees, but we felt that we were not only justified but absolutely bound to take it up. We took the best professional advice we could get and we were assured that if we did not undertake this work there was a very real danger that the entire drainage of Calcutta would be blocked. We therefore undertook this construction. It has been suggested that a similar spill area might be constructed in respect of Tolly's Nullah. Even before the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray made this suggestion, we were considering the question, and at this moment we are taking levels and are making careful inquiries to see whether it is possible to construct for Tolly's Nullah a spill area similar to that which we are about to construct for the Bidyadhari river. I cannot yet say what the result of our investigations will be, but they are being carried out by that very competent officer, Mr. Addams-Williams. We shall therefore have the best professional advice.

The Hon'ble Maharaja of Nashipur has referred to the dredging of the river Bhagirathi and has thanked us for once more making an allotment of Rs. 15,000 for carrying on this work. We have made this allotment, but at the same time it is only right to say that we do not hope that we shall be able to do anything startling with it. We shall just be able to do some dredging on lines similar to those which have been adopted in the past year. We should very much like to have been able to allot a larger sum and to obtain a larger dredger to carry out this work. That is the real problem and until a larger dredger is available for this work, whatever we shall do will be some alleviation of the problem, but it will be no final solution. Even if we had been able to make an allotment of five lakhs for the purchase of a new dredger, the money would inevitably have lapsed. It is not possible at this time of war to obtain new dredgers, and therefore we have been reluctantly compelled to do no more for the Bhagirathi river than we have been able to do in the past. But I can assure the Hon'ble Member that we shall endeavour to make the best use of the Rs. 15,000 which have been placed in the Budget.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Musharraff Husain from Jalpaiguri has once more referred to the old question of roads. He has asked, as I understand, that our expenditure should be still further increased and that still more roads should be added to the programme. He has asked that my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Green should pay a personal visit to the locality. The Hon'ble Mr. Green has visited the locality again and again, and I do not think there is any man living who knows the locality so well. He has told me that he is perfectly willing to make a fresh visit, whenever it is necessary, to have another look at the locality and refresh his memory. We all know the energy of Mr. Green, and we know that when he makes his visit it will be a useful visit. At the same time, as we are dealing with these roads, I might sound a note of warning. The House will remember what I said, when the subject last came up, namely, that the 'Milligan programme' holds the field. This is a programme which contemplates the construction of 19 roads. It is a programme which we always hoped to carry out, but it is only fair to inform the House that the roads which are now in progress are costing much more than we contemplated. Although we have formulated this programme of 19 roads, we have never promised, and we never could promise that we shall construct these 19 roads regardless of cost. Such a promise would not be fair. It would not be fair to other districts which are clamouring for money, not only for 19 roads, but for 1,900 roads. We have not yet struck out any road from the 'Milligan programme.' But it is only fair to make it clear that we must cut our coat according to our cloth. When we have

expended the total sum which we meant to expend on these 19 roads, we must seriously consider whether we should go on with the balance of the 'Milligan programme' in Jalpaiguri or should call a halt and give some other district a chance. At present, I make no pronouncement, I only sound a word of warning to my friends from Jalpaiguri.

One more subject and I have done. The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji has been good enough to make an allusion to the Department of Emigration. He has pointed out that the indentured system in Assam is about to expire. If he had said that it had already expired, his statement would have been more accurate. Now the entire recruitment for Assam is on the free *sirdari* system, that is to say, the experienced headmen from among the coolies in each garden are allowed to go back to their own villages and to recruit willing villagers to come and work along with them. There is no indenture and there are no penal clauses. But although the system in respect of emigration to Assam is now on a very satisfactory basis, I am sure the Hon'ble Mr. Banerji would be the last man to say that we should do nothing for the health and comfort of the coolies when they are on their way to Assam. The house to which he referred in Goalundo is the house of the doctor who looks after the health and comfort of the coolies as they are passing through Goalundo. Whether they are free or indentured it is our bounden duty to see that they are properly looked after. This house was on the banks of the river. It has been, or is about to be, washed away and it is therefore absolutely necessary to construct a new house for the doctor a little further removed from the shore.

This takes me back again to where I started. If Hon'ble Members would only come round to us and ask us for simple explanations about items in the Budget, we shall be very glad to see that information is given to them. It would save their time and it would save the time of this House.

Once more I thank the House for the kindly welcome which they have given to the Budget for the coming year."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 4.

RESOLUTIONS.

[*Under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest.*]

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY moved the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that a recommendation be made to the Governor General in Council that two seats be allotted to the educated community of the Presidency of Bengal in the Bengal Legislative Council in addition to the seats already given to the existing constituencies, and that the Regulations for the nomination and election of additional members of the Bengal Legislative Council be amended accordingly.

He said :—

"The resolution, as your Lordship will observe, is a modest one, but nevertheless of the utmost importance to the educated community of this Presidency. It aims at giving them an independent electorate. Your Lordship is probably aware that it is through the persistent advocacy of the educated classes that we have got this reformed Council. The educated classes have advocated their claims to get a voice in the Government of the country for a long time. From the time of Lord Dufferin to the Minto-Morley reforms, i.e., for a period of nearly a quarter of a century constitutional agitation was kept on by the educated community of the country, and the reforms in the Councils whether in 1892 or in 1912 are due greatly to their exertions. But the reforms introduced and the rights and

privileges conferred are not of such a nature as to satisfy the educated community. The Government thought it pro, er to give communal representation in this country. Special electorates have been given to the landholding classes, as well as to the Muhammadan community. Seats are also allotted to safeguard the special interests of the European commercial community both in Calcutta and outside Calcutta, of the tea planting community, of the Calcutta trades and of Indian commerce. When these communities and classes have been given separate electorates, one really cannot understand why the educated middle class community have not been given a separate electorate. It may be said that in the whole of this Presidency there are nearly 110 municipalities and about 106 Local and District Boards, there is the Calcutta Corporation, there is the University of Calcutta. These are constituencies which are meant for the educated community and from which the educated community may very well return representatives to the Council. The educated community outside Calcutta—those living in the mufassal—can no doubt if they wish and if they really want to take some part in the affairs of their country enter these bodies. The Commissioners of the Calcutta Corporation have the right of electing two members to the Council. So has the University of Calcutta, which is said to be representative of the education and culture of the country. But there is one fact which I want to place before your Lordship's Government. The landholding classes, though they have been given a separate electorate, are not precluded from enjoying the right of taking part in the elections to the Council from the Local and District Boards and the Municipalities. So is the case with the Muhammadan community. Notwithstanding the special electorate given to them, they have got full power to take part in the other electorates as well, and as a matter of fact they have been elected to the Council by these electorates. The Municipalities and District Boards are not the preserves of the educated middle class community, for a good number of the Municipal and District Board seats have been wrested from them. When this is how matters stand, I cannot understand why the educated community of the Presidency should be told that the Municipalities, the Local and District Boards, the Calcutta Corporation and the Calcutta University are the electorates meant for them and they ought not to ask for more. Then, again, why should connexion with local politics be a *sine qua non* for a person to enter your Lordship's Council. There is a large number of educated people, a very large number among the professional classes unconnected with any local body who should like to have an electorate of their own and from whom the country would like to see a few members in your Lordship's Council. On the 23rd December 1910, the President of the United Bengal Provincial Conference submitted a memorial to the then Home Member to the Government of India, the Hon'ble Mr. J. L. Jenkins. In paragraph 8 of the said Memorial he said. 'The educated middle class community are at a considerable disadvantage in the Councils and it is but fair to reserve two special seats for them. The registered graduates and the professional classes in Calcutta have been recommended in the above scheme for additional franchise, Calcutta being the capital of India and a great centre of education. It may be pointed out that Lord Lansdowne used to nominate two members to the Imperial Legislative Council from the English and the Indian side of the High Court Bar. The claims of the educated community in Bengal are not sufficiently met by giving one seat to the Calcutta University, which has ceased to be a popular body since the passing of the Universities' Act in 1904. Again, on the 23rd January 1912, a second Memorial was submitted to your Lordship's Government by the Indian Association on the reconstitution of the Bengal Legislative Council. In paragraph 7 of the said Memorial, it is stated, 'My Committee desire to express the same hope in regard to the representation of the educated community. It is no exaggeration to say that the educated middle class community in Bengal is not adequately represented in the Legislative Council of this Province. They would, therefore, submit that a seat should be assigned to the graduates of the Calcutta University of a

certain standing and this independently of the seat which is assigned to the Senate. It is true that the Senate of the Calcutta University returns one member to the local Legislative Council, but the majority of the members of the Senate consist of Government nominees and, therefore, the member returned by them may not, in every case, truly represent the graduates.' Again, 'while the special electorates for the Zamindars and the Muhammadans are intended to safeguard the interests of what are supposed to be the special interests of the two classes, the absence of a general electorate for the entire community is keenly felt by the public. The members of the middle class, as such, who form the backbone of Indian society, have no votes. My Committee would, therefore, suggest the creation of a general electorate in each of the five divisions of Bengal on some such basis as the payment of income-tax or a certain minimum of local rates and taxes.'

It is well known that your Lordship's Government and your Lordship personally have been most sympathetic with the just aspirations of the educated community. It is also well known that in pursuance of the representation of the Indian Association the Government of Bengal recommended to the Government of India to frame an electorate for the educated middle class of Calcutta, but the Government of India were not pleased to accept the above recommendation but gave a second seat to the Calcutta Corporation—a right unsought and unasked for by them and my friends the Commissioners of the Calcutta Corporation are making the very best use of the privilege which has practically been thrust upon them. True, anyone can be elected for the second seat by the Corporation. One need not necessarily be a member of the Corporation. But however powerful the candidate may be, whatever may be his qualifications, he can never expect their support. But I do not blame them nor do I ask your Lordship's Government to take away the franchise they have got, nor do I ask for a redistribution of the seats. My Resolution is for giving two seats to the graduates in Arts, in Medicine or in Engineering of certain standing who also pay an income-tax, to members of the Bar, to Editors of newspapers and journals and persons of like qualification.

My Lord, the Regulations of 1912, framed under the Indian Councils' Act, took note, as I have already said, of all the different interests into consideration. I do not say that the claims of the educated community have been totally disregarded. I am not at all against the municipalities or the district and local boards being vested with the franchise of returning members to your Lordship's Council. They are meant by Government as the doors by which the educated middle class are to enter the Council and some members of the middle class community have entered the reformed Councils through these bodies. But, unfortunately, there are many persons—men who would do justice to any Legislative Council—who are debarred from entering your Lordship's Council because they have not a proper electorate. Your Lordship will probably be surprised to hear, but nevertheless it is a fact, that in the district and local boards of the district of 24-Parganas—the premier district in the Presidency—there are only five or six graduate voters, and out of more than 300 members of these bodies in the Presidency Division—the most enlightened of the divisions under your Excellency—there are only about 40 graduate voters; whereas the number of such voters in the municipalities of the division—consisting of about 50 municipalities would be only about 60. And so we have only about 100 persons qualified to vote out of a total of at least 2,000 graduates in the Division, and this is the case in all the five divisions of this Presidency. Even the right of election given to the Calcutta University is most unsatisfactory. The right to take part in the election of a member from the University is not given to the registered graduates, but to a body the majority of whom are nominated officials. My Lord, the words of the famous Local Self-Government resolution of Lord Ripon of 1882 are still true, and applicable to the Council elections as well. It pointed out: 'But as education advances, there is rapidly growing up all over the country an intelligent class of public-spirited men whom it is not only bad policy but sheer waste of power to fail

to utilise.' Paragraph 21 of the resolution of the Government of India, dated the 16th November 1909, issued when bringing the Indian Councils' Act of 1909 into operation, laid down: 'The Governor General in Council is conscious that many of the details of the scheme which is being introduced may be found on trial to be unsatisfactory or capable of infringement. Experience alone can show how far methods which are new to India give to the different classes and interests a measure of representation proportionate to their importance and influence, and to what extent an untried electorate machinery is suitable to the varying circumstances of the different provinces and the numerous electorates. Defects will no doubt be discovered when the rules are brought into operation, but if this proves to be the case, the law admits of the regulations being amended without difficulty.' Your Lordship has done all that was in your power to do to give seats to as many non-officials in your Lordship's Council as the Regulations permitted. Your Lordship has the power to appoint 16 officials in the Council but you have got only 14 officials, the rest of the seats being filled up by nomination by your Lordship from among the non-officials and your Lordship nominated two of the very best men it was possible to nominate—Sir S. P. Sinha and Dr. Nilratan Sarkar. No electorate, whatever might have been its composition, could have elected better men. But, my Lord, who are they? They are the very best representatives of the educated community of the Presidency, one of whom, however, could never have entered this Council by election for he has not the necessary qualifications laid down in the Regulations. I know it will be necessary for your Lordship to go up to the Government of India and the latter to the Secretary of State to amend the law on the subject to give effect to my resolution. But my Lord, if it is necessary to go up to the higher authorities for the purpose it will have to be done. If there be any objection on the score of a very large preponderance of non-official element in the Council, well, my Lord, I, for my part, will not object to your Lordship's Government having two more official members in the Council. It matters little whether your Lordship has 52 or 54 Councillors. Knowing, as we do, the great sympathy your Lordship has for the educated community, I think your Lordship will only be too glad to welcome the day when Bengal will have at least 100 members in its Council, at least two-thirds of whom will be elected members consisting of the representatives of the people with full financial control—control over sanitation and education—having an effective voice in directing the policy of the Government and the administration of the country. Some of my friends told me not to move this Resolution at the present time. They asked me to wait till the present unhappy war was ended, till the restoration of peace within and calm around. They say Government will assuredly grant substantial rights and privileges, that there will be ere long a change in the angle of vision of our Rulers. That may be, but I am one of those who would be satisfied with small mercies at the present time. If we are to be the recipients of large privileges in the near future that should not deter us from asking for some privileges for which there has been real and an earnest desire on the part of the educated community for a considerable period of time.

I hope your Lordship's Government will see their way to accept my resolution. I ask for no radical changes in the constitution of this Council. We know that if it had been in your Lordship's gift we would have got it for the mere asking. But unfortunately it is not so. No well-wisher of the British Government will ever consider a policy of disregarded demands as a wise and just one. The grievances of the educated public should be taken up and remedied. The claims of the educated community to have a voice in the Government of their country no one can deny. It is the justice of the cause which has prompted me to move this Resolution. I thought at first of moving a Resolution for seven additional members, five for the five divisions of this Presidency and two for Calcutta. But on second thought I modified my ideas. It is the principle of my resolution, which I want your Lordship's Government to accept, viz., that the educated community of

this Presidency should have an electorate of their own and should be allowed to elect members in your Lordship's Council.

I think there exists in the country a strong feeling with reference to the reform which forms the subject-matter of my resolution. There will be no doubt no Hyde Park or Trafalgar Square demonstrations if my resolution be not accepted. There will be no change in your Lordship's cabinet or dissolution of the Council. The educated community or rather the educated middle class are the most law-abiding and peace-loving citizens in this country. They have all along approached Government for the redress of their grievances in a most constitutional way, and they will continue to do so till their grievances are redressed. A franchise based upon educational qualifications is an honourable franchise. A Muhammadan graduate can vote even for the Imperial Council in the Muhammadan electorate, but a Ray Chand Premchand student, if he is not a member of that community, has no voice even in the election of a member to the Provincial Council. I am glad that my Muhammadan friends are in the enjoyment of this liberal franchise, which, like their laws is just and equitable. I want the same treatment to be accorded to the educated community in general, whether Hindu or Muhammadan, Gentile or Jew. It is no 'fancy' franchise for which I approach your Lordship's Government. In recommending for a second seat to the Government of India which has been given to the Corporation of Calcutta your Lordship's Government practically accepted the principle of my resolution. I do not ask for 'residential manhood suffrage' which found such support in England under the auspices of the Reform League and the London Working Men's Association in 1867. But I ask for what I may term the 'educated manhood suffrage.' My Lord, we all know how step by step your countrymen have gained a freedom known to Europe, known to all. I call upon the whole House to unite on this occasion, on this the last day of your Lordship's first Council, to give to education what is but her just due."

The Hon'ble MR. LYON said :—

"The Hon'ble Member has given us a great deal of material to help us in dealing with this resolution, and I wish to say at once that, as he has already indicated, the Government are in entire sympathy with the educated community of Bengal in their desire for direct representation on the Council. It is well known that since the seats in this Council were first distributed an attempt was made to meet this desire for direct representation by giving one seat to the non-official member of the Corporation of Calcutta to which any member of the educated community might aspire. The Hon'ble Member is not satisfied with this solution of the question, and it is not for me to say whether he should be satisfied, or whether we are all satisfied. The whole arrangement must, of necessity, be in the nature of an experiment, and seeing that we have already found some difficulties in connection with that arrangement, it is clear that we have not arrived at perfection. But experiments have to be tested by experience, and our experience is obtained at stated intervals by general elections. There is one of these general elections just about to come on, and it is obvious that if we deal with this matter now, we are dealing with it just before we have obtained the experience which the coming election will give us. While I say, therefore, that Government are entirely in sympathy with this resolution, I do not mean that we are able to accept it, as we cannot do that, for perfectly clear reasons.

The Hon'ble Member has pointed out that his definite request is one for the enlargement of the Council, and not one for the redistribution of the seats in the Council. The Hon'ble Member knows that by thus defining his demand he is pointing out to the Council that it will require the amendment of an Act of Parliament to secure what he wishes. He gave us a quotation showing that Government have at all times been ready to consider the amendment of the Regulations under which the proceedings of this Council are conducted, and under which seats in it are

distributed. While I do not wish in any way to fetter the discretion of the Council in this matter, I am bound to point out the obvious fact that this is a very different matter from going to the Secretary of State and to Parliament to ask them to pass an Act amending the Act by which this Council is constituted. The Hon'ble Member rather supported what I wish to say on this subject when he gave us a vision of the future of this Council as a small Parliament of one hundred members, containing a large number of direct representatives of the educated community. I say he supported my contention with reference to this resolution when he said that, because he indicated in that vision what would be the larger questions which must arise when we ask Parliament to modify this Act and enlarge this Council. It is obvious that we cannot go up to Parliament and ask them to pass an Act for the purpose of giving to the Council in Bengal, as apart from other Councils, two more members. The Council is the same in number as the Councils of Madras, Bombay and the United Provinces. When the matter is considered before it is placed before Parliament, it will be necessary to consider what larger representation is required in other Provinces as well. But apart from that, I think it is clear that Hon'ble Members in this Council will say that it requires the consideration of a very large number of other important questions before we can make this representation as to the amendment of this Act. I think the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray will understand that whatever importance he attaches to the advantage of having two seats for the benefit of the educated community of Calcutta, if he considers the whole question of the number of members to be elected in Bengal to a new Council, and the whole question of amending this Act of Parliament, he and many of his friends may wish to add not two, not seven, but still more members to the Council. I hold, therefore, that it would be a grave mistake for this Council to pass a motion for the alteration of this Act of Parliament without a full consideration of all the questions involved.

I have still another reason for suggesting that it is undesirable that we should pass any such recommendation at the present time. The Hon'ble Member knows well that we cannot get it through in time for the present election, which is to take place within the next two months; and the consequence is that he asks those who are about to die to pass a resolution which is to govern all future elections after the present one before we have had the experience of the coming contest, and before we can find out what the gentlemen who may be elected and will sit in this Council for at least the next two years have to say on the subject. I am perfectly certain that the respect which he would wish to show to his successors in this Council will prevent his depriving them of the opportunity of considering this matter fully, and in view of our present lack of the very experience which these elections are to give to us, Government will not countenance such a decision or such a pronouncement in this Council. I hope, therefore, that if the Hon'ble Member is satisfied with the reiteration of the sympathy which this Government have with the general trend of his motion, and with my explanation of the practical impossibility of any fruit coming at the present time from this resolution, even if it were carried, he will be willing to withdraw it."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, I desire to congratulate the Government on the sympathetic attitude which they have assumed with regard to my Hon'ble friend's resolution. I quite agree with the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon in thinking that this Resolution if accepted would necessitate our going up to Parliament for a modification of this Statute, and if we are to go up we ought to go up with far broader and larger demands than what are contained in the resolution of my Hon'ble friend. My friend wants that two members should be added to the Council and that the statutory number should be raised to 52. That represents the sum total of his requirements. We should be very glad to get the two members. But we want a great deal more,

Babu S. N. Banerji; Mr. Lyon; the President.

and if we have to go up to Parliament for the reconstitution of this Council, we must go up with a full and well-considered demand. My friend himself has referred to the nature of that demand. He looks forward to a time when this Council will consist of about a hundred members, each district being properly represented and the educated community having their voice in the administration of the affairs of this Province. The demand ought not only to be in the nature of an increase in the number of members of this Council, but also it should mean the exercise of effective control over legislation and finance. I think, sir, if there is to be a readjustment after the war, that readjustment ought to give to the popular representatives a preponderating voice in the deliberations of the affairs of the Province. There ought to be in this Council a majority of elected members. We have a majority of non-officials. But we know that there is a vast difference between an elected majority and a majority of non-officials. If we are to go up to Parliament, we must pray that this Council should consist of a majority of elected members, and then not only that, but that we should have a right of moving resolutions that should be obligatory upon the Government. At the present moment, our resolutions are more or less pious hopes and aspirations. They are not binding upon the Government. Your Excellency may accept or reject a resolution. Your Excellency has, however, been kind enough to accept some resolutions which we have moved. But the matter ought not to be left to the discretion of an individual Governor. We ought to have the statutory right that when a resolution has been accepted it ought to be binding on the Government. Then as regards the matter of putting questions, supplementary questions are allowed to be put only by the interpellator. In the House of Commons, the practice is that a supplementary question may be put by any member."

The Hon'ble MR. LYON said :—

"I rise to a point of order. The Hon'ble Member does not appear to be speaking to the motion."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, I think I am in perfect order. The question is what we are to do if we are to go up to Parliament."

The PRESIDENT said :—

"Order! Order!

It is very probable that I know more about Parliamentary practice than the Hon'ble Member. And if I had been speaking in Parliament in the same manner as the Hon'ble Member has done for the past two minutes, I am sure that I would have been stopped.

I see nothing in the resolution about 'Supplementary Questions', and I must rule the Hon'ble Member's remarks as out of order."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, I was going to observe that our demands ought to be much larger than that contained in this modest resolution which my Hon'ble friend has put forward and with which Government have expressed their sympathy. I do agree with the Government in thinking that if we have to go up to Parliament we must go up on a broader and wider basis, and then with reference to the further remark which my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Lyon, has made with reference to this matter, viz., it is hardly proper for an expiring assembly to pass a resolution of this kind. I think it would be better if it were introduced into the next Council and the votes of that Council taken on it. I think, my Lord, my advice to my friend is that after the expression of sympathy which he has elicited from the Government in this matter, it would be well for him to withdraw this resolution."

Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said :—

"My Lord, should the resolution be pressed to a division in spite of the words which have fallen from the Hon'ble Member in charge, I should not like to give a silent vote—'a sensible vote,' it would be, I hope, in any event. The demand is not at all an immoderate one, and as a graduate of the Calcutta University, I would be failing in my duty to my fellow-graduates if I did not support this resolution with all the emphasis I could command. Elsewhere, on another occasion, I had to point out that graduates of the Calcutta University number not quite 20,000 all over its jurisdiction. The whole of that number does not belong to the Presidency over which your Excellency presides. There is therefore a solid but not unmanaged electorate, and the details of election need not be a matter of any considerable difficulty. Therefore, when the time comes, I do trust and hope that the graduates of the Calcutta University who are spread over all the professions and occupations of life in this Presidency, will have opportunities which have been claimed on their behalf.

In passing, however, I am unable to accept all the reasons that have been put forward by my friend in formulating his demand. We have heard it stated that the University of Calcutta is not popular; I do not know in what sense the limiting adjective has been used. No University that is exacting can hope to be popular. If it be regarded as unpopular in this sense we need not despair and may yet hope to be popular if steps be taken to compel us to be less exorbitant in our standard and demand as was recently suggested in this House. That, however, is not the general accusation levelled against us, and oftener than not we have been told that we are not exacting enough and are therefore so popular. If it be suggested on the other hand that the basis of our constitution is not popular enough the suggestion is not quite ill-founded. But it must be admitted that in the sense of representing the people it is certainly more popular now than when Lord Lansdowne opened the doors of election to it. A larger percentage of fellows is now elected by the registered Members and the Faculties, and, however unworthy may have been their choice in the immediate past, a constituency that has returned to this Council and to its predecessors, men of the type of the late Messrs. W. C. Bonnerjee, A. M. Bose, Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, Kali Charan Banerjee and Bhupendra Nath Bose, cannot be said to have been very much influenced to its prejudice by the official majority that has predominated there right through. In fact, the official majority was larger in those days than it is now. I cannot claim that official members of the Senate and non-official members always see things eye to eye and they may sometimes disagree. But I feel it my duty to do this justice to my official colleagues there, that all through the time that this right of electing a representative on the Council has been accorded to the Senate, they have allowed their non-official colleagues to represent them. None of the pettiness and jealousy that mars the relations between officials and non-officials, between Hindus and Muhammadans elsewhere trouble the Senate, and, it is noteworthy, Hindus have ungrudgingly supported a Muhammadan candidate and Muhammadans have ungrudgingly supported a Hindu candidate in contested elections and Europeans—both officials and non-officials—have equally supported both. It would be wrong and ungrateful of me not be make this admission and proclaim this fact, and therefore there is no point in what my Hon'ble friend says with reference to this aspect of the case. But apart from that, registered graduates who are growing strong in number will form a right constituency worthy of any concession in this direction that may be thought of. I do not know why amongst his reasons my friend should have thought fit to add that the income-tax paying capacity should be one of a basis of qualification. Registered graduates are not always as fortunate in life as my friend is, and many of them pay no income-tax and most of them a very negligible income-tax. If, therefore, the concession is to come, it ought to come on the academic basis, as men who have devoted their lives to learning and culture and propose to devote their lives to the cause of the country

Dr Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari; Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur; Babu S. N. Ray.

apart from the income-tax payers' altitude. I do not think my friend wishes to press this resolution to a division now, and I am sure that when the time comes all that we have been saying in favour of this resolution will have effect."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR, said :—

"My Lord, I confess to a feeling of embarrassment in rising to speak upon the resolution now before this House. There can be, I think, no dissentient voice in regard to the principle that there should be an adequate representation of the educated community in this Council. That the present electoral units do not afford a proper representation of the educated classes as such, is also a patent fact. But while I associate myself with the spirit underlying the demand made by my Hon'ble friend Babu Surendra Nath Ray, as a Muhammadan advocating communal representation, I am sorry I cannot give my support to the resolution in its present shape. If the Hon'ble Mover could suggest a scheme in which some special Muhammadan representation might be guaranteed, he could have my vote at his command. I shall not be in order to propose any amendment to the present resolution at this stage, but I would suggest that if the electorate formed by the elected members of the Calcutta Corporation could be suitably expanded and a few more seats given to the educated classes, then surely some of these seats could be reserved for a special Muhammadan electorate. I may remind your Excellency that while mufassal Muhammadans have been given the privilege of returning one member from each Division, the claims of the Muhammadans of Calcutta have been altogether overlooked in this behalf. Calcutta returns as many as seven representatives to this Council, including the nominated member representing the Indian commercial community. But while out of every four representatives of a Division, we have one special Muhammadan member, there is no provision for a single Muhammadan seat among the seven seats given to Calcutta.

My Lord, but for the special electorates we would have been nowhere near this Council Chamber. It must be known to your Excellency that the Muhammadans cannot hope to be returned by the Landholders' Electorates in the mufassal, and of the ten District Board and Municipal seats outside Calcutta a maximum number of two is all that has fallen to our share. It is because of this that we have been advocating the adoption of the principle of special communal representation in the lower rungs of the ladder so that these units might be truly representative in character, and afford proper representation to us on this Council. The Muhammadan representatives, must be in a minority in this Council for all times in spite of the special seats given to us. And to our grief, the rights of nomination, which are expected to be exercised in the interests of the minorities, are used by your Excellency's Government in such a way as not to give us more than one seat out of the three in your Excellency's hands. It is, therefore, our bounden duty as representatives of the Muhammadan community, to see that our position in this Council is not made worse than it is to-day. And for this reason I am opposed to the present resolution in so far as it suggests an addition to the number of seats without providing any facilities for the Muhammadans to be returned."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"My Lord, After the sympathetic reply which the Hon'ble Member in charge has given, I beg to withdraw this resolution."

The resolution was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 5.

The Hon'ble KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSAIN moved the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that a committee be formed consisting of officials and non-officials to inquire into the present economic condition of the middle class people of Bengal and to suggest means for improving their condition, if necessary.

He said :—

"My Lord, The economic condition of the people of this country has very recently engaged considerable attention by the appointment of a Royal Commission to report upon—

(1) whether new openings, for the profitable employment of Indian capital, in commerce and industry can be indicated ;

(2) whether and, if so, in what manner the Government can encourage industrial development—

(*a*) by rendering technical advice more freely available ;

(*b*) by demonstration of the practicable possibility on a commercial scale of particular industries ;

(*c*) by affording direct or indirect financial assistance to industrial enterprises ; and

(*d*) by any other means not incompatible with the existing fiscal policy of the Government of India.

When I gave notice of the resolution that I am moving, I was not aware of almost a similar resolution which Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla of Bombay was fighting for in the Imperial Legislative Council. The fact that two persons from two extreme corners of India were thinking on the same subject and asking for Government intervention shows the awakening of the Indians on the subjects of commerce and industry, and their consciousness that circumstances do exist in different parts of India rendering the investment of Indian Capital in some lucrative business almost impossible. People have been feeling this for some time past and thanks to Lord Minto's expansion of the Legislative Councils, people of different professions and shades of intelligence have been allowed to take part in the deliberations of the various Legislative Councils, where they have been privileged to discuss subjects of general public interest affecting the welfare of the people of India. The economic condition of Indians, if truly analysed, will converge into the narrow subject which I have introduced in this Council, and that is the economic condition of the middle class people. The higher class, by whom one refers to native chiefs and the bigger zamindars of Bengal, have got sufficient means to live comfortable lives. The labourers and the agriculturists are now getting decent means of livelihood, thanks to the industrial enterprises opened out by British capital in India. The middle class people, who may rightly be called the brain of Bengal, and who by heredity and other causes will ever remain middle class, in spite of all the sufferings they may undergo, and whose number is increasing daily are the subject of the present discussion. They are in all cases the organising body in the world and are paid for their organisation, the actual manual work being done by the low class people. If the work of the middle class people is analysed it will come under the following heads :—

(1) Railway,
(2 Shipping,
(3) Mining,
(4) Manufacturing.
(5) Special cultivation, and
(6) Managing and clerical work under all the heads.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharraf Husain.

Now, if one could examine all these different branches of industry in which the middle class people are supposed to be able to earn a livelihood, I would ask your Excellency's Government to consider whether the middle class people of Bengal can be said to have a share in them and, if so, is that share sufficient for the people to live on. I may be charged as a theoretical person if I did not bring forward to your Excellency the disadvantages under which the middle class people suffer when they wish to enter upon any enterprise to better their condition. Railway, shipping and mining are altogether shut out to them. Probably the reason for this will be said to be that vested interests cannot be touched and I must yield to this argument even here. I would, however, ask your Excellency's Government to inquire whether there are any openings still left for the Indians in these industries.

Next comes special cultivation. While we had the privilege of having your Excellency in our midst in Jalpaiguri in 1912, I had the honour to head a deputation who represented the inconvenience the Indians suffer from when they want to open out a tea garden in the Duars, where the soil and climate is especially favourable for tea, as the Government, for reasons best known to them, laid down a clause in the lease prohibiting tea plantations in *jote* lands there. Your Excellency's kind intervention has enabled us to open out, since then, about 15 gardens in the Duars with a capital of over 20 lakhs of rupees. I am glad to announce to your Excellency that with the raised and borrowed capital and with revenue we have invested about 60 lakhs of rupees there, and have been expecting in the course of two or three years more to declare dividends in all these companies to the extent of over 10 lakhs of rupees. This, I must say, is entirely due to your Excellency's sympathetic attitude towards us. But I am sorry to notice that there have been changes in the policy of conversion of *jotes* into tea estates, enunciated by whom and at whose instance, we, the public, do not know. When I see that a commission has been issued to find out new openings for Indian enterprise, I am sorry to notice that our new enterprises in Bengal are being strangled. Probably the reply from those that are responsible for this strangulation will be that the Indians do not know business and it is to deliver them from the mistake that they are committing that these steps are being taken. My Lord, the Bengali proverb 'One who can love more than a mother is a witch' applies with very great force here. As to the capacity of the management of the Indian tea planters, I believe even the officials cannot doubt it, when they see that the Indians are paying very handsome dividends from their concerns. This, I believe, is a fit case for inquiry.

Next, my Lord, if a middle class man wants any land in Government *khas mahal* to earn his livelihood by better and special cultivation, at once, the usual reply from the officials is to the effect that the Government of India have prohibited the granting of any land in Government *khas mahal* to the middle class people. Whenever there is any such patronage left in the hand of Government the democratic rulers of our country will at once give it to the Uraons and Mundas of Chota Nagpur and not to the middle class people of Bengal at all.

In short, my Lord, the economic condition of the middle class people of Bengal is a matter which should engage the very serious attention of your Excellency's Government and before your Excellency leaves our Indian shores, we hope your Excellency will be pleased to do something to ameliorate their condition.

I am glad to notice that Sir Rajendra Nath Mukherjee has become a member of the Commission and he will succeed to give the views of the Province of Bengal with some force. But, my Lord, I am dealing with Provincial affairs and there are subjects which are special to Bengal, such as tea, jute, shipping and mining which require careful dealing. I would have thought a special local committee with officials and non-officials and with Sir Rajendra Nath Mukherjee as one of us would best have been able to deal with the special requirements of Bengal.

Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur; Mr. Beatson Bell.

With these few words, my Lord, I beg to commend this resolution to the Council for their kind acceptance."

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, I beg to support the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharraf Husain. In my opinion, this resolution is worthy of acceptance by your Excellency's Government. The unfortunate economic conditions of the middle class people of Bengal are too well known to need repetition by me. There are no openings for the middle classes except clerkships under Government or the Provincial Civil and Judicial Services, the Law and Medical. Any fresh avenues of employment and especially industrial employment for the members of the middle classes will prove the salvation of the country."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

"My Lord, I am sorry that Government cannot accept this motion. I can assure the House, and the House will accept our assurance, that it is not because we are out of sympathy with the economic condition of the middle classes. On the contrary, the economic condition of the middle classes of Bengal is a subject which has given this Government very great concern in recent years, and we have anxiously tried to find the best means for improving the condition of these classes. My friend, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur, has apparently never read the Report of the District Administration Committee, or if he has he has not read so far as Chapters IX and X. A study of these Chapters would have shown him that the District Administration Committee, of which my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. De, was a prominent member, made the most thorough investigation into the very questions into which the Khan Bahadur would like us to make further investigations. The House will perhaps pardon me if I read a few sentences from the concluding portion of Chapter IX.

'To conclude, then, of the English-knowing classes, only a certain portion fail in obtaining adequate employment; but too many see in the foreigner an economic foe. Deeply imbued as they are with national sentiment, they must watch the European merchant or the Indian trader from beyond the borders of Bengal amassing a fortune; even the cooly and the cultivators are benefited by the increased activity in industry and trade. But the rising stream of wealth somehow passes them by; nay, it takes from them, in higher prices and wages, a little even of the very little that they have.'

This was the conclusion of the District Administration Committee, and I am sure that no committee which the Khan Bahadur may suggest will conduct a more searching inquiry or will arrive at a conclusion which is more sympathetic towards the classes under consideration. Our investigations did not end in mere sympathy. We drew up definite recommendations which were placed before the Local Government and before the Government of India. The first and most important of our recommendations was the appointment of a Director of Industries, one of whose chief duties would be to find new openings for the middle classes. We are in great hopes that a new economic era is about to dawn. For the development of industries, we have already placed a lakh of rupees in our Budget and we hope to place larger sums in future budgets. But the crux of the situation is this: The Secretary of State on the recommendation of the Government of India has appointed a Royal Commission to examine this subject from a wider standpoint. This has made it highly inopportune that we in Bengal should waste time, energy and money in going over the very grounds which this larger commission is about to cover. I need hardly say that all the evidence which was taken by the District Administration Committee will be placed at the disposal of this Royal Commission and they will of course take a mass of fresh evidence for themselves.

I must say that I was a little taken aback when my Hon'ble friend the Khan Bahadur after a few preliminary remarks on shipping, mining and manufacture dived into the subject in which he is specially interested, namely, the

terms of the revised leases in the Jalpaiguri district. This is a side-issue, but as it has been raised, I may state briefly how the case stands.

In Jalpaiguri there are three classes of lease. *First*, there are the ordinary *mal jote* leases for raiyats; *secondly*, there are the waste land leases granted specifically for the cultivation of tea, and *thirdly*, there are the waste land leases granted for other cultivation. As regards the first class, they are for ordinary cultivation. There is no restriction as to what crop may be cultivated. It is open to the cultivator to grow tea or anything else. I must however say that we do not view with favour any wholesale buying out and eviction of raiyats in order that their holdings may be thrown into a tea garden, whether managed by European or Indian agency.

The second class of lease requires no remarks. It is granted specifically for the cultivation of tea and of course contains no restrictions on such cultivation.

The third class of lease is granted for the cultivation of arable waste with crops other than tea. There has been no change of any kind in these leases since 1888. The present form of lease was drawn up upon the recommendation of Lord Ulick Browne, a Commissioner who had intimate knowledge of the conditions of tea cultivation in Jalpaiguri. It has been suggested that in 1912, His Excellency passed an order modifying the form of this lease and that some wicked person in the Secretariat disregarded His Excellency's order and restored the old form. I have made a thorough search in the Secretariat and can find no trace of any such order. We are now considering the question whether there should be any modification of the lease, and one of the points which we are considering is whether it is any longer necessary to maintain the restrictions which were imposed by Lord Ulick Browne. Long before this motion was filed, His Excellency passed an order that he would like to see the papers personally before orders are passed. His Excellency's order will, of course, be carried out. Meanwhile Lord Ulick Browne's lease holds the field and it will hold the field until His Excellency thinks fit to modify it.

My Lord, we are accused of giving preference in *khas mahals* to settlers who are actual cultivators. This is the fact and I am not ashamed of it. We have tried the experiment again and again in every part of Bengal of giving leases to men of the middle classes who have assured us that they will reside on the land and they will cultivate it with their own hands, but we have invariably found that they have gone back upon their undertakings. They have simply sublet the land to cultivators at rents higher than those which are taken from men immediately under Government. We are most willing to help the middle classes, but we are not prepared to do this by setting them up as absentee landlords extracting rack rents from peasants in the mufassal. We welcome any *bonâ-fide* cultivator, whether he is a Muhammadan, a Brahman, a Munda or an Uraon; but we do not welcome absentee middlemen.

To return once more to the main question: we cannot accept this resolution and the chief reason for our refusal is the approach of the Royal Commission."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said:—

"I confess that there are difficulties in the way of the acceptance by Government of my Hon'ble friend's resolution. The first difficulty is the appointment of the Royal Commission. But I think if my Hon'ble friend Mr. Beatson Bell would refer to the wording of the resolution and its object, he will find that there is a substantial difference. The terms of the latter are wide and comprehensive and refer to a particular matter, viz., the matter of industrial development, but the terms of my friend's resolution are confined to the economic condition of the middle class population of Bengal. The reference is not so wide and the larger reference may or

may not include the smaller point referred to in my friend's resolution. I think it would be necessary for me to be a little more specific. The resolution which was accepted by the Government of India is this : That a Commission be appointed to inquire into and report upon the growth and encouragement of the industries of this country. It is a question of industrial development which is to be considered by the Royal Commission, but my hon'ble friend's resolution, viz., that a committee be formed consisting of officials and non-officials to inquire into the present economic condition of the middle class people of Bengal, does not include an inquiry into the industries relating to the whole country. Here it is only a reference to the economic condition of the middle class. I do submit, my Lord, that there is a wide difference between the subject-matter of this resolution and that of the Royal Commission.

Then as regards the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell's reference to the second difficulty, viz., that this matter was considered by the District Administration Committee and that they made certain recommendations. That I do believe is a real difficulty. If the matter has been thoroughly gone into and has been considered and recommendations have been made in connection with it, is there any necessity for going over the same ground and appointing a fresh committee? I think my Hon'ble friend will perceive that there is a slight difference. This committee will be a committee consisting of officials and non-officials while the District Administration Committee was composed of officials only. And a committee of officials and a mixed committee of officials and non-officials may not see eye to eye upon all public questions. Therefore it does seem to me that if the Government are sympathetically inclined they may appoint this committee for the purpose of considering a matter which is of the highest importance to the people and to the Government alike. There is no harm in going over the same ground if further light is thrown and further evidence is obtained. My friend the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell has observed that recommendations have been made by that committee. I should like to know whether any of those recommendations has been given effect to, and what steps have been taken in that behalf."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

"Yes. The first recommendation of the committee was the appointment of a Director of Industries. We have made a provision for his salary and a lakh of rupees has been sanctioned for his work."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"But the Administration Committee made several recommendations. In a matter of this kind some particular recommendations should be laid hold of and definite action taken on them. The District Administration Committee's efforts were diffused over a wide area. It strikes me that having regard to the importance of the subject my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell may see fit to reconsider his decision. I think it is an advantage to have both officials and non-officials combined in a committee of this kind. These are the suggestions which occur to me, and I do hope that the matter which has been referred to the Government will receive a sympathetic and indulgent consideration. I think my Hon'ble friend has given us an assurance that it is under the consideration of His Excellency, and if that be so I think we may be perfectly confident that the amplest justice will be done to all interests concerned. I still hope that the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell may be persuaded to reconsider his decision."

The resolution was then put to the vote and lost.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The PRESIDENT then addressed the Council.

He said :—

"GENTLEMEN,

Your labours are now ended, but before bringing the Council to a close, I must ask you to bear with me while, in accordance with custom, I say a few words.

This is probably the last time that we shall be sitting together in this room in Council as at present constituted for, unless something unforeseen happens, I shall not summon my Legislative Council to meet again until after its Additional Members have gone out of office and an election has to some extent at least altered our membership.

Before I say anything else, I feel sure you will like me to refer to events which are happening to-day in which we and everyone else in India are interested. His Excellency Lord Hardinge is to-day finishing and His Excellency Lord Chelmsford is to-day beginning each his term of office as Viceroy. To both our best wishes go forth. We recognize, I feel sure, the courage and high sense of duty which Lord Hardinge has shown in the face of trials and sufferings such as few men are called on to bear, and which would have completely overpowered most men. He has worked hard for India; he has given to her of his best; no one can deny that he has affected the course of Indian events and has stirred Indian opinion. We, in Bengal, have been affected as much as any one by his actions, we have criticized him as freely as people ever criticized any one, but we recognize his singleness of aim, admire his courage and undoubtedly, I hope, we wish him every happiness in future; I feel sure, too, that we are ready to give to Lord Chelmsford a hearty welcome, feeling confident that he, too, will give to India his best, and trusting that during his term of office he may strengthen the bonds which unite India to the Empire, for which in the past in different parts of the world both Lord Hardinge and Lord Chelmsford have worked so hard.

And now I thank you all most sincerely for the help you have given me ever since January 1913, when we began to work together. You have helped me to pass 16 Acts and one Bill which is now with the Viceroy, and which will become an Act as soon as it receives his assent. And I specially thank my non-official colleagues; you have shown much zeal among you, you have asked 736 questions. Your laudable desire for information was of real advantage to Government. It gave us an opportunity, which we might otherwise not have had, of letting the public know what we have been doing in what we believe to be the public interest. You brought forward 76 resolutions. You were sufficiently satisfied with the attitude of Government to withdraw 48 of these without going to a vote; no fewer than 18 of your resolutions were accepted either in their original form or with some modification. Ten only were rejected when pressed to a division,—no bad record this, I think, for the non-official Members of any legislative body. Twenty-seven of you on an average out of 34 have been present at each meeting of Council. I know some assemblies where the whips would have an easier task, if Members everywhere were as willing as you are to be regular in their attendance.

All this augurs well for the future of Council Government. Council Government can only be successful, as those who advocated it hope, if the elected Members take a real interest in their work, and if the electors also are interested and try to secure good representation.

We in this Council have been affected in many ways by the war. I do not merely mean that I have not been able, owing to the curtailment of funds, to ask your assistance in projects which I had hoped you might help in; I am thinking even more of the loyal and unselfish way in which you

have refrained from the discussion of controversial subjects and have even been willing to abstain from united complaint at delay in reforms which I know you most keenly desire. I thank you for that, and I trust that some day when money is once more available, you will find that Government are sincere in what their Members have said to you; that, for instance, we are genuinely sorry that we cannot just now do far more than we propose to do for education, for sanitation, in combating the terrible scourge of malaria, in bringing the Dacca University scheme into being, or in increasing facilities for medical education and for technical training.

There is one matter about which I regret to say it has been my duty to speak to you more than once before and about which I must speak again. The crime usually spoken of as political crime, that form of crime which, though it is not confined solely to Bengal, is more common here than elsewhere. On the 7th of April last year, I reminded you of the Defence of India Act which the Government of India had just passed, partly with the avowed intention of meeting the situation in Bengal. I reminded you of what had been said on behalf of the Government of India, and I told you that my colleagues and I had the honour of Bengal at heart, and that for the sake of Bengal we should not shrink from using the Act wherever we thought fit. Gentlemen, what has happened since then? There have been 26 fresh dacoities, four of them accompanied by murder. No fewer than 18 persons have been murdered—five of them being Indian officers murdered in the execution of their duty and three other Indians who were giving assistance to Government.

And this is not all; it has been brought to the knowledge of Government in a way which Government feel makes it certain that some persons in Bengal have got into touch with, and taken pay from, or have tried to get into touch with, and take pay from, the enemies of our Emperor and of our country—I mean with foreign enemies belonging to the countries with whom we are at war; that other persons in Bengal have been ready to tamper with the loyalty of the King-Emperor's Indian troops—those troops of whose loyalty and of whose bravery Indians and Englishmen alike have every right to be proud; and that yet other persons in Bengal have been planning or considering how to plan crimes which would at any time be hurtful to the public weal, but which at a time like this are doubly hurtful. So far we have not been able to produce—I wish we could—exact evidence to bring home their guilt beyond a shadow of doubt to the individuals who committed those crimes. But we have evidence which goes a long way towards it. There are different degrees of guilt: some men are, no doubt, mere dupes, sometimes, perhaps, unconscious dupes in the hands of more astute criminals, who are clever enough to conceal themselves, and cowardly enough to use others to commit overt acts which render their doers, if they are caught, liable to severe punishment, while they themselves avoid doing anything which can be seen and merely plot in a way which may be skilfully interpreted as bearing some other meaning. I am sorry for these dupes, but they are a source of danger,—though not so great a source of danger as those who exploit them. It is the duty of Government to use the powers which they possess against any danger to the State. That, gentlemen, is my duty and the duty of my colleagues, a duty which we are doing our best to fulfil. It is also my duty and the duty of my colleagues to see that the liberty of those for whose governance we are responsible is not interfered with unjustly and that duty, too, we have done our best to discharge.

Two hundred and eighteen persons in all have up to now been dealt with in Bengal under the Defence of India Act. Ten of these are Uraons—aboriginals of a not very advanced type, whose crime seems to me more due to ignorance and the primitive nature of their beliefs than to anything else and whom I am glad to think we can, owing to our being able to use this Act, deal with in a spirit of pity and as a precaution to prevent the evil which their action, if unchecked, would bring on themselves and their fellows.

In regard to the other 208 cases, orders for internment under Regulation III of 1818 have been passed against 21 persons. Four have been expelled

from Bengal; and 132 have been served with orders of compulsory domicile within the Presidency. In this matter of compulsory domicile we have been as considerate towards the men served with orders as we can be consistently with the attainment of our object of making it difficult for them to continue in conduct by which in the past they have laid themselves open to strong suspicion of having taken part in acts hostile to the welfare of the State. That accounts for 157 out of the 208 cases. The other 51 persons are at present under arrest under rule 12 (*a*) of the Defence of India Rules. All of these have been arrested within the last four weeks and their cases are being dealt with as quickly as possible.

My colleagues and I fully recognize our responsibility. It is we and we alone who must be blamed if any mistake is made. We realize the seriousness of interfering with personal liberty without a full trial in court. But we have been deliberately given power to do this, and it is our duty to use the power given to us, when we believe it is right and just to do so. We cannot for reasons of State give publicity to the grounds on which we have based our action; but I assure you that as a Government we have done nothing which I do not believe we were fully justified in doing. I go further—I say that we should have grossly failed in our duty to Bengal if we had left anything undone that we have done under the Act.

I shall mention one more point. Last year I spoke to you of the police, and I told you we had taken a step which I hoped you might look on as an earnest of our determination to find a right solution for admitted difficulties. That step was the deputation of my Private Secretary, Mr. Gourlay, to make minute inquiries and collect accurate information. Mr. Gourlay did this work well and I believe we can confidently look forward to securing a better feeling before long between the police and the public. We realize even more clearly now than we did a year ago how easily harm may be done if the so-called political crime is not most carefully, but at the same time most rapidly, handled. We believe the situation is grave; we hope it will become less grave; for we believe that as well as being grave it is exceptional. We recognize how much we depend on the efficiency of our Indian Police Officers. We recognize the bravery which our Indian Police Officers have shown in the face of known danger; and we are determined to do all we can to help them. We are not very successful. There is no use denying it. We are not as successful as we should like to be in discovering who commit the crimes. Take for example the 26 (so-called political) dacoities which I have referred to as having taken place during the last 12 months.

There were 22 cases of dacoity without murder. In two of these cases only were we able to bring any one to trial. We brought six accused to trial, of whom five were convicted.

In the four cases of dacoity with murder there was only one case in which we were able to bring any accused into court. We brought 14 accused to trial and 11 of them were convicted.

That 16 out of 20 persons accused should be convicted does not, I think, afford any justification for saying that police evidence is bad; but that out of 26 cases of political dacoity our investigating officers should only be able to obtain enough evidence to bring three cases into court, shows that, whether it be that our criminals are too clever or that our police are not clever enough, or that the general public are not able to help us, or whatever the reason be—as a matter of fact we are not as successful as we would like to be or as I hope we yet shall be.

To help us in considering how we can best make use of the powers which we possess, especially those which we possess for the present under the Defence of India Act, and in determining generally how we can proceed with best chance of success in dealing with political crime, we have deputed Mr. J. G. Cumming, whom you all know and in whose ability and in whose uprightness and in whose sense of justice and fairplay I, and I believe all who know him, have absolute confidence—we have deputed Mr. Cumming to

help our police in their dealings with political crime. For the time being at any rate there is enough work of this kind to occupy the full time of an officer, even of the most capable officer. I trust our action in this will be interpreted by the public as showing that Government are dealing as seriously as they are able to do with the problem of removing from Bengal the blot which undoubtedly at present stains her reputation. In any case I believe it is action which will prove helpful.

ADJOURNMENT.

Gentlemen, the Council is adjourned *sine die*."

A. M. HUTCHISON,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal and

Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council (Offg.).

CALCUTTA ;

The 24th April, 1916.

B. S. Press—15-5-1916—90J—350—B. N. K

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in Government House on Tuesday, the 4th July, 1916, at 11 A.M.

Present:

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., *Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I., *Vice-President.*

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble COL. W. R. EDWARDS, C.B., C.M.G.

The Hon'ble MR. F. J. MONAHAN.

The Hon'ble SIR S. P. SINHA.

The Hon'ble MR. J. LANG.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. DONALD.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble MR. C. H BOMPAS.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNELL.

The Hon'ble MR. C. F PAYNE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. B. H. PANTON.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., AMIR-UL-OMRAH.

The Hon'ble SIR RAJENDRA NATH MOOKERJEE, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR.

The Hon'ble MR. J. MACKENZIE.

The Hon'ble MR. G. C. GODFREY.

The Hon'ble MR. AMINUR RAHMAN.

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. R. GLEN.

The Hon'ble MR. PROVASH CHANDRA MITRA.

The Hon'ble SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

The Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU ARUN CHANDRA SINHA.

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble RAI DEBENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. E. H. BRAY.

The Hon'ble MR. A. BIRKMYRE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. B. EDEN.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. MARTIN.

The Hon'ble MR. H. R. A. IRWIN.

The Hon'ble MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY.

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM.

The Hon'ble MR. M. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ.

The Hon'ble MR. A. RASUL.

The Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY.

The Hon'ble MR. ALTAF ALI.

The Hon'ble RAI SRI NATH RAY BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA.

The Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. K. B. DUTT.

The Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 1.

OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE.

All the Additional Members except one who was absent made an oath or affirmation of their allegiance to the Crown.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 2.

The President then addressed the Council.

His Excellency the President said :—

"I am glad to welcome you here. I congratulate each and all of you on having attained, in some cases for the first time, in others once more, to a position which will afford you frequent opportunities of doing good work for Bengal ; and I congratulate myself, as well as you, because I believe you will make good use of those opportunities. I know from past experience how willing many of you have shown yourselves to do anything which you think will further the objects which the Legislative Council is meant to promote, and I feel sure those of you who are now to the Council will prove yourselves no less willing.

The making of long speeches, by the President at least, is not one of those objects, so I shall not say much. I believe I am expected to say something about the modification in the membership of this Council, as compared with the last, which has been brought about by the way in which I have exercised my power of nomination. I have only asked three instead of five Secretaries to Government to serve on this Council and I have not nominated the Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners. I quite appreciate the good work which all the Secretaries and the Vice-Chairman did in the last Council. I know their absence may sometimes, perhaps often, be of inconvenience to Government. I know how valuable to Government even a single safe vote in a division may be and I know that my action has made it more easy for the non-officials to defeat Government whenever they wish to do so. I know all these things, and I know too that it will not be easy for my successor, if he should wish it, to raise the number of officials to what it was. But I made the modification deliberately. It is true that legislation will always affect the officials. It is true in any country, and especially in this country, that Government officials, if they are worth their salt, must often have a corrector view than almost any other class as to the probable effect of legislation—that I grant—but a Governor, I am glad to think, can at all times have frank advice and criticism from his officers ; what he can't always get so easily is frank advice and criticism from those who look at things from an unofficial point of view. People tell me we get criticism from the public press. We do, and I am thankful for it. We cannot have too much of it—if only we have time to read it ; and if our critics take the trouble to be accurate as to facts, and, what is perhaps even more important, not to suppress any facts, they can help Government very much indeed. But newspaper editors and Government officials have this in common : they must both, if they are to perform their function well, be to a great extent collectors of voices, they must think of those whom they serve, and they must therefore often—though from different points of view—underrate the importance of some point to an individual or to a group of individuals ; for this reason, it seems to me, a Governor will always wish to have on his Council as many gentlemen as possible who, he believes, will not shrink from pointing out where the executive may be liable to make mistakes ; and if he can, in choosing those gentlemen choose men who, from personal experience or interest, are not likely to overlook matters to which Government may, however unintentionally, not give due weight, a Governor will be wise to choose them.

As to future legislation I must tell you frankly that I fear that there can be little in which I shall have to ask you to help me. I hope my successor will be able to get your help in carrying out important work in that line. But in view of the policy which has been deliberately laid down for India of not dealing with controversial matters, while the war goes on, we cannot take up the matters which you probably are most interested in. As many of you know, I was very anxious to see an Act passed, while I was here, to improve the Calcutta Corporation. I had hoped that that would have kept you pretty fully occupied during the next nine months. But such a measure

must be controversial. We may possibly be able to introduce a Bill—perhaps even we may be able to refer it to a Select Committee, but there is no chance of my seeing it passed. One Bill you may rely on my doing my best to bring in and pass, though it is not ready yet—a Bill to give the control of their own small local affairs to people resident in the country districts, in a way which I believe will promote a feeling of common responsibility. Those of you who have taken the trouble to read (and I hope many of you have done so) the report of the Bengal District Administration Committee will know the lines on which I believe very real progress towards self-government may be made. I hope a Bill may soon be ready and I hope it may turn out to be sufficiently acceptable to avoid the necessity of our putting it on one side as too controversial. Of course that is not for me to determine. Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but I shall be very sorry if we cannot take a step which it seems to me will do a very great deal to help Bengal to help itself.

Now I am all but done; but unfortunately before I sit down I must refer to a matter about which I have more than once spoken in this room. The murder committed a few days ago in Calcutta has given one more proof of the courage and devotion to duty of our Bengali Police officers; but it shows us that Government have not yet succeeded in overcoming the organization which many of our people were quite naturally and quite properly so unwilling to believe existed, in spite of evidence, and which is doing so much harm to Bengal.

Last April I told you briefly what Government were doing and of the steps which we were taking—steps which we were only able to take because of the exceptional and temporary legislation which the Government of India have passed. Fifty-one cases were then pending; there were 51 men about whom Government had not at that moment received full enough information to determine how to deal with them: two of those men were released, the other 49 were compulsorily domiciled. Up to this moment the total number of men, whom Government have compulsorily domiciled because we felt that it was our duty to the people under our charge not to leave those men, in view of the evidence against them, to go and come as they like, is 190. Those 190 men are actually in the places assigned to them; there are orders out against 12 more men who are absconding; and the fact that they are absconding does not lead me to think that in issuing our orders we have been unduly rigorous.

In addition to this, action has, up to the present time, been taken against 21 other men under Regulation 3 of 1818.

On the 4th April last, I told my Council that 4 persons had been expelled from the Province. Since then 3 others have been expelled.

I can assure you that Government believe they have been fully justified in all they have done. We may of course have made mistakes in some cases, but we have interfered with the liberty of no one against whom we did not feel that there is evidence—though we admit it is not evidence which ought to lead to conviction in an ordinary court of law.

One other point I must impress on you, for a wrong impression prevails about it; it is not the case that we have dealt with these men only because we believe they have all been concerned in a German conspiracy. In many cases—in the vast majority of cases of those who are compulsorily domiciled—we do not think these men were plotting to help Germany. We have acted as the Defence of India Act empowered us to act, and we have used the power which the Government of India when passing that Act expressly said was needed in Bengal.

We shall go on using that power as long as we believe it is necessary to use it. This last week has clearly shown that the time has not yet come when we can say it is no longer necessary. Other and greater powers might have been more effective, but we have to use the powers we have got, and we shall continue to use them—not harshly I hope, but justly. I honestly

believe that those powers have been of real use to us. It is my firm conviction that if we had not had them, Bengal would just now have been in a far worse plight than she is.

But we must not forget that the powers which we can exercise now are only temporary, and we must remember that the disaffection which led to crime existed before the war, and may continue to exist long after the war ends. Government must face facts. Government must aim at removing, where they can, the disaffection; that is the most important thing, and it is in that that I particularly hope my successor, if not I myself, will get very great help from you, the Members of Council; but Government must aim too at putting down with a firm hand, if need be, the crime, one of whose worst features is that it makes it harder for us to do some things which I hope may yet go far to remove the disaffection.

How far the powers, permanent or temporary, which we have, meet our needs we are gradually learning. It is one of the plainest duties of Government to consider this, and I can promise you that if Government believe they ought to have greater powers than they have, they will try to get them, and I can promise you that meantime we shall go on making the best use we can of the powers we have."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 3.

THE CALCUTTA HACKNEY-CARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1916.

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Calcutta Hackney-carriage Act, 1891.

He said:—

"My Lord, the present Act is Bengal Act II of 1891. It originally extended to Calcutta but has been extended under section 1, sub-section (3), to almost every town in Bengal where carriages and palanquins are in general use. Twenty-five years' experience of the working of the Act has brought out many defects which the present Bill is intended to remove. I shall only mention three of the more important provisions here. The first that came to our notice is that one of the defects of the existing Act is its inelasticity. Under section 5, the classes of hackney-carriages are rigidly fixed and so also the fares under section 31. The present Bill omits both these provisions from the Act and allows them to be regulated by by-laws framed under section 53. The second matter is one of considerable importance. Section 10 of the Act provides for annual registration. Experience has shown that after registration carriages are allowed to fall into a state of disrepair, notwithstanding the provisions of section 11 giving power to the Registering Officer to suspend or cancel licenses. To enable this power to be effectually exercised, the Bill provides for compulsory production of carriages with horses and harness used therewith within a week after expiration of six months from the date of annual registration.

Under the present Act, in the absence of any means of identifying horses, the same animals are brought up over and over again harnessed to different carriages. When the registration is over, other animals are substituted which would have probably not been passed by the Registering Officer if they had been produced before him. To prevent this a new chapter 11A has been introduced by clause 8 of the Bill in order to facilitate identification of horses. The means of identification will be prescribed by by-laws.

Besides the above, the following important provisions have been made in the Act. Provision has been made for effective check on carriages plying for hire after the registration of such carriages or the licenses of the drivers have been suspended under section 11.

Owners of carriages who allow a driver who has not obtained a license or whose license has expired or has been cancelled or suspended to drive a carriage in violation of such an order have been penalised.

To prevent a driver's license being granted to unsuitable persons, the age-limit has been raised from 16 to 18, competency to drive the carriage, a knowledge of the locality, sober habits and want of previous conviction for offence, which in the opinion of the Registering Officer is a disqualification, have been insisted upon as necessary conditions for the grant of a driver's license.

When a driver is convicted, warned or reprimanded for an offence under the Hackney-carriage Act, it has been made compulsory on Magistrates to endorse such convictions, warnings and reprimands on the license. It is optional under the existing law.

Power has been given to frame by-laws under section 53 preventing hackney-carriages and palanquins being used for purposes of advertisement.

Certain improvements in case of palanquins have been aimed at."

The motion was put and agreed to.

LIST OF BUSINESS ITEM No. 4.

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda moved that the said Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Payne, the Hon'ble Mr. Panton, the Hon'ble Rai Priya Nath Mukharji Bahadur, the Hon'ble Rai Debendra Chandra Ghosh Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mr. Bray, the Hon'ble Mr. Z. R. Zahid Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray and the Mover, with instructions to submit their report in time for its presentation in Council at the meeting to be held in August next.

The Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR said :—

"My Lord, I wish to make a few observations with regard to the principles and the general provisions of the Bill which has just been introduced and for which a motion has just been made to refer it to a Select Committee. With a view to improve the hackney-carriages of this city and to secure a more effective control over them, the Bill provides that there should be every six months an inspection by the Registering Officer of every hackney-carriage and its horses and harness. A new chapter (IIA) has been added which provides for the identification of the horses and harness which have been approved for every hackney-carriage at its registration. The provision of the Bill for the identification of the horses, if the process of marking could be made without causing much bodily pain to the animals, is no doubt likely to prove a useful and effective safeguard against deceptions and malpractices. But, my Lord, the provision made in the Bill for levying a fee for the identification of each horse, not only at the first instance but also at every subsequent renewal of such mark when it may become indistinct or obliterated seems to me to be rather hard and inequitable. When a carriage is registered, a tax is paid for its registration ; this tax evidently includes the carriage, the horses, the harness and everything. I do not understand on what principle this additional tax is to be imposed upon a horse simply for its receiving a hall-mark of the Municipal Corporation. A carriage cannot be registered without a horse, and I do not see how a horse can come in for further consideration for its decoration with a cross or a star.

Then, my Lord, it seems to me that the provision for imposing a further additional tax upon the horse every time the mark becomes indistinct or obliterated seems to be extremely hard. The badge may be obliterated through no fault either of the horse or of the owner of the horse. It may be due to some defect in the process of marking ; it may be due to the inefficiency of the men who may put the mark, or it may be due to some natural causes, over which none of us, not even the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, may have any control. Then, my Lord, it seems to me that if we are to impose an additional burden upon the owners of hackney-carriages they will not be slow to use it as a pretext for raising their charges against the public for their services. Upon these grounds, I object to the imposition of the tax proposed in this Bill. Then, my Lord, there is the question of a longstanding public grievance which I expected this Bill to

meet. It is widely known that the existing rates of fares prescribed for hackney-carriages, both by distance as well as by time, are practically a dead letter, honoured more in their breach than in their observance. A third-class carriage is never available either at the distance rate or at the hour rate, while a second-class carriage will seldom go at either of these rates beyond St. Paul's Cathedral. The fact that exorbitant charges are often made from passengers travelling beyond the limits of the old town of Job Charnock is a great hardship which calls for a remedy. My Lord, the Jehus positively refuse to recognise the definition of Calcutta, as given in the successive Municipal enactments and notifications, as not having received their sanction. I submit that it is high time that measures were taken strictly to enforce the penalties on the subject and remove these public grievances.

My Lord, the carts represent the heaviest traffic of this city, and they are left to be dealt with only by two sections of the Municipal Act which simply provide for their registration and the levying of a fee for their registration. If the palanquins can be brought under the operation of the Hackney-carriage Act, I do not see why the carts should be left out of it. If the horses of hackney-carriages are to be marked for their identification, I do not understand why the bullocks and buffaloes of carts should be exempted from the operation. I do not think that it is all intended to mark the same distinction between them as is sometimes observed between the official and non-official members of your Excellency's Legislative Council. I would like to see some improvement effected in the construction of these primitive vehicles with their tails, describing semicircles of nearly 20 feet in diameter when rounding a corner of a street and causing obstruction to other traffic which may sometimes require ten to fifteen minutes to clear. I think, my Lord, that the present opportunity should be availed of to effect some improvement in the cart traffic of Calcutta and remove the public inconveniences occasioned by them under the present system."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, I have heard with great interest all that has been said by my friend the Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar in discussing the general principles of the Bill. He has made no proposal that the Bill should not be referred to a Select Committee. He has only taken this opportunity to discuss some of the provisions of the Bill and I can only say that all these can be considered in the Select Committee and afterwards when the Bill is brought up for discussion in the Council before it is finally passed. I, therefore, do not think it necessary to enter into the merits of the questions raised. My friend has practically supported the general provisions of the Bill but considers that though the provisions for identification are useful the scale of fee is somewhat unreasonable. These are questions which as I have said may well be considered either in the Select Committee or in the Council afterwards. As regards the rates, I think the Bill has really effected an improvement. The rates are now fixed at one uniform scale. They cannot be increased or decreased. We have taken the rates out of the Act and allowed them to be provided by by-laws. If at any time it is necessary to raise or to reduce the rates, that can now be done under by-laws to be framed under section 53 of the Act. I can assure my Hon'ble friend that all these matters will be dealt with in the Select Committee and that all that he has said will receive due consideration there."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council was adjourned to Monday, the 7th August, 1916, at 11 A.M., at new Government House, Dacca.

A. M. HUTCHISON,

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal and
Secy. to the Bengal Legislative Council (Offg.).

CALCUTTA;
The 8th July, 1916.

B. S. Press—21-7-1916—905J—350—C. A. P.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in new Government House at Dacca on Monday, the 7th August. 1916, at 11 A.M.

Present:

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., *Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I., *Vice-President.*

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. N. D. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble COL. W. R. EDWARDS, C.B., C.M.G.

The Hon'ble MR. F. J. MONAHAN.

The Hon'ble MR. J. LANG.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. DONALD.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNELL.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., AMIR-UL-OMRAH.

The Hon'ble SIR RAJENDRA NATH MOOKERJEE, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. MACKENZIE.

The Hon'ble MR. AMINUR RAHMAN.

The Hon'ble MR. R. GLEW

The Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU BRAJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble BABU ARUN CHANDRA SINHA.

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. A. BIRKMYRE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. B. EDEN.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. MARTIN.

The Hon'ble MR. H. R. A. IRWIN.

The Hon'ble MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY.

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM.

The Hon'ble MR. M. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ.

The Hon'ble MR. A. RASUL.

The Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY.

The Hon'ble MR. ALTAF ALI.

The Hon'ble RAI SRI NATH RAY BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA.

The Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 1.

OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Hon'ble Babu Brajendra Kishor Ray Chaudhuri made an affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 2.

STARRED QUESTIONS

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY:—

Alleged high mortality in Manikganj.

*1. Is it a fact that, in the last few years, the deaths in the subdivision of Manikganj far exceeded the births, as a result of heavy mortality among infants and an abnormally high mortality from fever?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied:—

"A statement is laid on the table."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *in his Answer to Question No. 1 (starred) asked by the Hon'ble* BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 7th August, 1916.*

Statement showing the number of births and deaths, the infant mortality and the number of deaths from fever in the Manikganj subdivision in the years 1911—15.

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Number of births	19,853	19,270	18,468	14,548	12,892
Number of deaths	10,069	9,756	17,418	26,243	22,592
Infant mortality	2,083	2,344	3,519	4,512	2,909
Number of deaths from fever ...	8,135	7,466	12,758	22,151	15,149

N.B.—The figures for infantile mortality include deaths from fever, and those for fever mortality include deaths in infancy.

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY:—

Birth- and death rates in the Presidency Division.

*2. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the subdivisions or thanas in the Presidency Division in which the annual death-rate has, in recent years, exceeded the birth-rate, giving in each instance—

(*a*) the number of births during each of the last five years; and the deaths from—

(*i*) fever, and

(*ii*) other causes,

during the corresponding periods;

(*b*) the density of population, and the rate of births and deaths for the last five years, as compared with the corresponding figures for the rest of the Province; and

(*c*) any special measures which have been, or are being taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied:—

"Statements giving the information asked for are laid on the table."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Donald in his reply to question No. 3 (starred) August 1916, showing the thanas in the Presidency Division in which the annual number of births and deaths from fever and all other causes

Name of district.	Name of thana.	BIRTHS.					DEATHS.									
							FEVER.					OTHER CAUSES.				
		1911.	1912.	1913	1914.	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
...hidabad...	Jalangi or Damkal ...	5,024	4,967	4,675	4,664	3,578	3,073	3,430	3,669	6,273	4,337	796	799	778	1,438	643
	Kandinagar	3,796	4,317	2,937	3,952	2,862	2,355	2,640	2,445	3,780	3,210	539	725	656	969	597
	Sujaganj	1,508	1,450	1,398	1,382	1,199	1,269	1,187	1,000	31,415	1,345	193	237	257	431	295
	Barwa or Beldanga ...	5,890	5,218	5,170	5,047	4,297	2,744	3,022	3,371	4,483	2,886	1,423	937	1,316	2,017	1,343
	Daulat Bazar ...	1,567	1,678	1,477	1,504	1,259	1,017	1,119	1,163	1 575	1,431	303	336	365	545	368
	Hariharpara ...	2,351	2,369	2,130	2,215	1,800	1,555	1,666	1,806	2,589	2,362	451	336	714	820	648
	Noada	2,368	2,319	2,074	2,045	1,703	1,327	1,497	1,673	2,408	1,908	484	522	679	1,189	450
	Navagram	2,196	2,267	2,126	2,287	1,428	1,204	1,348	1,366	1,827	2,867	342	276	380	386	228
	Sagardighi	1,718	1,721	1,506	1,768	1,154	1,102	1,413	1,044	1,668	1,620	310	337	295	295	231
	Sahanagar	419	417	428	290	264	312	330	321	481	403	182	105	108	168	39
	Asanpur	296	316	315	286	228	282	260	260	279	232	1 7	119	109	103	68
	Mamlabasar	86	97	103	113	85	113	105	109	122	98	19	15	22	25	14
	Bhagwangola	2,588	2,687	2,236	2,796	2,122	1,531	1,778	1,774	2,641	1,961	444	363	269	498	296
	Bharatpur	4,633	4,404	4,382	4,197	3,722	1,981	2,704	2,776	3,573	3,203	1,044	1,152	1,092	1,745	1,334
	Goturna	1,201	1,171	1,172	1,148	721	500	548	631	1,430	1,875	186	198	228	356	196
	Kandi	977	962	965	1,022	880	402	405	540	722	962	270	245	299	363	322
	Kharagun	3,027	3,064	2,953	2,999	2,340	1,200	1,984	1,481	1,996	2,618	679	696	779	843	773
	Burwan	3,167	3,231	3,201	3,030	2,663	1,463	1,760	1,769	2,538	2,411	710	851	1,312	2,0	618
	Shamserganj	4,345	3,787	3,815	3,867	3,139	3,276	3,610	3,925	4,208	3,795	593	419	479	871	683
	Suty	3,145	2,339	2,350	3,020	2,297	2,195	2,827	2,560	2,666	2,586	723	344	353	1,041	687
	Lalgola	3,781	3,895	2,921	2,566	2,013	2,097	2,109	2,068	2,955	2,402	317	253	264	467	335
	Mirzapur	1,941	2,030	1,796	1,186	1,558	1,327	1,627	1,504	2,153	2,138	277	277	270	445	289
ore ...	Jessore	3,566	3,247	3,351	3,963	3,216	3,045	3,405	2,627	2,681	3,528	894	1,060	402	642	768
	Bhagharpara ...	1,960	1,868	1,682	1,905	1,435	1,517	1,594	1,178	1,268	1,313	446	533	347	329	559
	Monirampur ...	3,721	3,968	3,826	4,184	3,411	3,100	3,416	2,913	3,798	4,183	809	793	451	468	812
	Gadkhali or Jhinkargacha.	2,455	2,496	2,311	2,606	1,805	1,686	2,051	1,724	1,930	2,351	398	473	263	243	411
	Kaliganj	2,184	2,163	2,282	2,749	2,037	1,773	1 [illegible]	1,510	1,807	2,675	444	596	413	571	549
	Keshabpur	2,410	2,340	1,870	2,776	2,139	1,627	2,189	1,454	1,408	2,2 3	319	787	394	944	803
	Jhenida	3,033	2,969	2,789	2,956	2,223	2,155	2,478	2,603	3,073	2,703	377	547	227	297	394
	Kotchandpur	1,005	962	1,034	1,347	800	827	845	570	933	1,184	304	325	165	178	114
	Salikopa	6,035	5,734	5,297	4,7.8	4,015	3,920	3,675	3,978	5,017	4 562	764	965	569	466	1,841
	Magura	5,009	5,401	4,654	3,959	3,964	2,871	3,042	3,407	3,980	3,810	904	1,203	713	662	742
	Salikha	1,597	1,840	1,445	1,375	1,284	1,186	979	732	840	1,053	449	389	266	287	300
	Mohamadpur	3,041	2,819	3,183	2,474	2,426	1,794	1,675	2,258	2,614	2,286	472	490	348	624	724
	Narali	5,125	5,517	5,429	5,742	5,780	2,763	3,731	3,030	2,414	4,259	1,284	1,647	1,093	1,037	1,600
	Lohagarh	4,184	4,579	4,593	4,751	4,011	3,296	3,598	2,711	3,152	3,647	968	1,222	1,084	796	1,856
	Bongaon	3,440	2,899	2,624	3,473	2,827	2,759	3,334	2,480	3,585	3,606	716	1,242	813	760	494
	Gaighata	1,459	1,364	1,269	1,788	1,187	1,146	1,420	1,205	1,468	1,611	331	526	235	249	178
	Malancha	2,905	2,666	2,683	3,061	2,009	2,700	2-479	1,938	2,522	2,771	710	693	513	673	503
	Sarsha	2,664	2,324	2,245	2,456	1,896	1 302	1,961	1,800	1,729	2 150	662	655	396	536	457
...lna ...	Satkhira	3,667	3,558	3,468	3,558	2,997	1,573	1,724	1 641	1,818	2,261	880	1,003	705	781	1,338
	Kalaroa	2,712	3,012	2,276	3,118	2,437	1,426	1,838	1,564	1 405	2,338	509	844	536	693	728
	Magura	3,389	3,761	2,967	3,849	3,304	1,563	2,329	1,682	1,385	2,525	689	1,108	968	737	1,091
Parganas ...	Bohala	849	881	983	2,060	1,464	2 3	274	397	1,170	1,160	174	266	332	610	947
	Jaynagar	2,794	2,837	2,741	2,845	2,347	1 289	1,567	1,423	1,842	1,902	1,197	2,144	555	849	1,179
	Dum-Dum	219	209	181	145	159	177	116	146	122	135	83	95	83	59	75
	Khardah	285	270	262	239	232	126	181	268	190	216	84	109	141	62	105
	Nawabganj	43	59	65	48	49	30	39	78	75	45	1	13	29	9	24
	Barrackpore	147	190	171	180	127	74	109	148	110	139	34	37	37	62	46
	Naihati	721	694	547	537	563	436	366	549	543	592	200	260	215	146	121

...answered by the Hon'ble Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray at the Council meeting of the 7th ...death-rate of the last five years exceeded the birth-rate, together with the ...for the last five years and the density of population, etc.

Deaths of ...	BIRTH-RATE—					DEATH-RATE—					BIRTH-RATE OF THE PROVINCE—					DEATH-RATE OF THE PROVINCE—				
...	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
555	44·72	46·21	41·61	41·51	31·84	34·43	37·64	30·58	36·97	46·12	...	...		...						
545	44·37	50·45	46·01	45·37	33·35	34·17	39·36	36·38	38·87	44·40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
513	37·29	41·34	39·80	39·10	34·18	42·25	39·86	36·88	42·31	53·57	...	...		...	...		...		...	...
743	48·31	43·83	43·46	42·43	36·04	35·11	33·28	29·32	34·96	43·19	...	...	...		...		...	...	...	...
554	44·08	47·31	41·55	42·31	29·79	37·13	38·88	40·40	34·01	47·63	..				...	...	...	...	...	...
544	44·08	44·40	39·92	41·51	33·73	37·82	37·52	47·27	34·27	54·73	...	...		..	...	...	...	...	...	..
577	46·62	45·66	40·84	40·27	33·52	39·79	39·78	46·31	39·65	46·43		...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...
570	48·86	45·49	42·66	43·89	28·89	31·03	31·88	33·03	47·21	52·01	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
470	43·42	42·57	37·26	43·73	22·54	34·92	44·87	30·89	47·39	45·78	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
913	48·38	45·16	47·48	44·23	29·50	53·36	49·27	46·46	62·49	60·03	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...
738	54·62	56·71	58·22	52·66	42·14	71·00	70·05	66·91	70·60	85·47	...		...	..	...		..	...	...	...
1,311	14·38	14·55	17·22	18·90	14·21	23·08	20·07	21·91	26·36	17·89	37·66	38·31	36·81	3··78	35·27	26·12	31·19	30·98	33·65	34·48
539	43·67	45·34	47·66	47·22	35·08	34·34	34·18	34·30	35·97	38·09	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...
745	47·87	45·48	45·28	43·34	38·44	30·93	29·80	29·93	35·01	45·82	...	...	.	...	...	...	.	...	...	...
546	44·56	43·45	43·49	41·60	26·76	28·45	27·68	31·50	62·56	76·85	...	..	..	..	.	...	.	...	...	...
1,057	41·08	42·47	45·34	46·11	37·40	30·32	29·33	37·06	44·41	38·03	..	.	...	..	...	...	...		...	...
498	44·15	44·55	43·07	43·74	34·71	27·41	27·42	32·96	41·41	49·46	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	.	...
708	42·57	44·78	44·38	40·73	35·80	29·21	35·10	41·62	43·72	45·11	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	..	...
971	45·89	40·60	40·29	40·94	33·15	41·91	42·55	46·62	51·53	46·86	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	.	...
491	46·78	42·16	38·24	38·93	33·98	43·36	47·41	43·31	55·08	43·86	...	..	...	..	...		...	...	..	...
700	41·80	43·82	43·91	38·87	30·26	34·78	35·49	35·03	51·44	41·91	..	..	...	..	...	.	.	...	...	...
476	40·77	42·64	37·77	41·72	26·43	33·69	42·31	39·37	54·58	50·76	..	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
519	30·05	27·49	28·38	32·71	27·23	33·36	37·81	25·74	28·14	36·81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
470	31·06	31·17	33·43	37·67	26·52	30·81	42·06	28·32	31·94	41·78	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
622	27·42	29·24	34·51	30·23	25·13	29·80	31·02	24·79	34·07	36·41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
657	31·91	33·43	30·04	33·90	23·46	27·09	33·33	25·76	28·76	35·90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...
509	30·62	30·38	31·30	33·55	28·58	31·09	34·55	28·06	33·58	45·21	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
717	38·28	32·31	35·02	36·33	29·40	26·67	40·82	25·52	24·74	37·58	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
480	34·37	34·65	31·61	33·83	25·19	28·81	34·38	32·07	28·19	35·12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
668	38·33	73·65	36·55	44·08	28·60	30·59	41·29	35·05	36·38	46·08	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
737	36·21	34·41	31·36	38·78	24·09	26·21	27·81	27·26	32·02	34·82	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
644	35·01	37·38	32·83	37·67	27·64	29·28	29·67	30·80	32·34	29·73	...	.	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
447	29·65	30·78	35·68	39·10	31·58	39·40	53·96	34·78	27·73	33·76	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	..	...
731	36·80	34·08	36·69	39·94	29·36	27·42	36·30	32·03	37·97	35·62	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
645	36·83	36·95	36·36	39·46	28·71	27·12	33·35	27·61	25·11	33·34	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...
701	34·22	37·94	38·06	39·52	33·66	28·01	31·63	31·19	34·44	49·25	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
461	26·96	27·83	25·22	28·15	24·26	33·75	42·84	32·79	41·72	38·53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
447	34·70	32·44	30·18	42·38	28·23	35·13	46·52	36·46	40·60	48·79	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...
463	33·04	30·24	30·51	34·81	23·85	29·81	35·96	27·67	36·24	37·22	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
538	34·78	38·83	32·73	35·75	27·60	30·90	36·63	31·83	33·12	38·50	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
755	36·36	35·96	36·34	35·44	29·61	24·12	27·04	25·36	23·29	35·30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
536	36·81	40·49	30·89	42·22	33·08	36·36	38·69	38·87	37·34	41·69	...	.	...	...		...	...	...	...	...
758	35·60	39·48	01·36	40·11	34·69	23·85	35·00	29·69	34·38	37·96	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,866	10·87	11·50	19·47	40·40	29·90	8·55	10·64	18·34	35·26	30·84	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,076	38·10	39·28	33·91	34·82	29·47	21·38	23·24	17·25	18·23	20·73	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
122	42·54	60·59	25·44	28·16	30·85	52·44	40·96	44·48	28·15	40·40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
384	45·84	41·34	40·75	38·64	33·99	37·67	39·96	62·00	38·74	49·15	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
286	38·16	61·25	46·48	33·86	30·08	21·67	23·96	62·32	38·74	48·35	37·66	38·31	36·80	36·79	35·27	26·12	31·19	30·98	33·65	34·48
1,536	31·41	36·64	36·34	37·78	29·37	20·94	31·20	45·52	32·48	37·40	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
909	36·17	36·20	37·76	34·25	28·86	38·38	41·60	41·29	34·70	39·21	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...

Name of district.	Name of thana.	BIRTHS				DEATHS.									
							FEVER.					OTHER CAUSES.			
		1911.	1912.	1913.	1914	1915	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914	1915.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
24-Parganas—*concld.*	Barasat .. .	6,168	5,941	4,103	1,203	4,396	2,000	2,903	3,518	2,653	3,228	1,427	1,499	1,303	1,096	2,121
	Begunga	2,681	2,323	2,132	2 107	1,881	1,431	1,530	1,534	1,594	1,562	573	580	488	496	454
	Habra	2,736	2,435	1,777	2 107	2,070	1,273	1,784	1,626	1,596	1,712	583	891	127	391	615
	Baraha .. .	2,938	2,740	2,360	2,725	2,289	1,318	1,606	1,530	1,428	1,653	714	571	549	469	668
	Baduria .	4,311	4,185	3,683	1,250	3,541	2,786	2,815	2,858	2,780	3,252	1,138	1,118	712	819	1,086
	Diamond Harbour .	2,858	3,074	2,742	2,474	2,353	796	874	895	965	1,059	1,079	1,118	1,184	1,580	1,537
	Kulpi	5,089	4 705	4,010	4 713	4,548	1,446	1,938	1,939	2,026	2,030	2,474	3,279	1,871	2,503	2,728
	Falta	2,077	2,182	2 072	2,292	1 806	760	921	949	831	1,040	612	730	742	649	855
Nadia ...	Krishnagar .	2,948	2,861	2,798	2,703	2,209	1,831	2,064	1,906	2,402	2,107	830	617	700	1,017	5
	Ranaghat	1,324	1,308	1,536	1,177	932	1,415	1,382	1,259	1,819	1,768	446	488	411	569	285
	Kissengunj	1,200	1,262	1,247	1,290	784	1,198	1 141	973	1 566	1,424	461	394	379	471	219
	Chapra	3,008	2,449	2,698	2 580	1,874	2,093	2 573	2,368	3,326	2,149	857	139	726	1,220	674
	Nakalpara ..	2,163	2,341	2 216	2,242	1,729	1,715	1,989	1,794	2,088	1,854	221	38	468	640	351
	Kaliganj ...	2,684	2,128	2,158	2,220	1,744	1,107	1,732	1,601	2,164	1,870	481	160	392	729	446
	Ranaghat	2,490	2,362	2,138	2,312	1,894	2,056	2,410	2,147	2,967	2,814	626	710	528	531	466
	Santipur	856	959	823	768	589	733	618	703	857	763	262	345	216	227	231
	Chakdah	3,011	3,151	2,793	2,952	2,559	2,169	2 598	2,403	2,545	2,735	798	1,095	784	816	694
	Kustia	4,049	4,179	3,942	3,419	2 817	2,433	2,393	2,696	3,310	2,804	372	541	716	617	519
	Kumarkhali	4,755	5,064	5,018	1,033	3,708	3,342	3 435	1,572	4,935	3,527	907	989	825	865	744
	Daulatpur	3 242	3,030	3,368	3,158	2,672	2,371	2,290	2,518	3,671	2,630	578	617	516	564	549
	Mirpur	5,618	5,757	5,315	4,478	3,594	4,185	3,091	1,470	5,662	4,536	1,186	1,011	903	1,210	814
	Meherpur	3,292	2,993	2,909	2 886	2 614	2,021	1,919	2,076	3,510	2,171	1 221	427	701	1 030	309
	Tehatta ..	4,159	3,731	3,850	3,615	2,930	2 516	2,846	3,256	4,091	3,326	1,073	675	791	1,426	738
	Kumarpur .. .	4,512	4,337	4 207	1,212	3,369	2,806	3,011	1,024	4,697	3,518	763	671	646	1,267	731
	Gangani	3,852	2 917	2,987	3,107	2,261	2,106	2,480	1,919	2,984	2,473	467	346	380	452	313
	Chuadanga	1,976	2,012	2,077	2,321	1 452	1 232	1,466	1,293	2,198	2 080	424	432	418	471	377
	Alamdanga	3,778	3,449	3,524	3,534	2,648	1,984	2 023	2 404	3,403	2,905	596	662	685	715	449
	Damurhuda ..	2,759	2 710	2,503	2,638	1,801	1,401	2 117	1 804	2,905	2,150	044	234	216	422	299
	Jibannagar	1,185	1,270	1,279	1,496	876	1,121	927	836	1,194	1,302	328	431	334	358	310

Density of population (per square mile).	Birth-rate—						Death-rate—					Birth rate of the Province—					Death rate of the Province—				
	1911	1912.	1913	1914	1915.		1911	1912	1913	1914.	1917	1911	1912.	1913	1914	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913	1914.	1915
18	19	20	21	22	23		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
1,594	41·81	40·86	29·86	28·50	29·80		23·68	29·85	31·30	29·41	36·27										
841	43·08	37·32	31·25	33·45	28·1		21·20	33·12	31·10	33·54	32·31										
722	39·50	34·47	2,·66	30·42	23·49		27·07	28·62	27·06	25·73	31·00										
1,086	36·01	34·08	23·15	13·18	25·67		2,·27	27·11	29·86	22·79	28·87										
884	33·61	32·17	28·71	31·13	27·23		20·05	30·80	28·11	25·29	31·81										
1,287	3··39	39·14	31·01	1··51	2··36		23·37	2··36	28·17	32·10	33·05										
1,553	37·15	40·90	26·,8	41·87	29·47		26·06	31·22	25·02	29·79	31·21										
1,146	36·21	34·07	36·50	1··0	31·91		24·16	24·96	29·63	21·07	31·07										
451	40·80	43·64	34·75	37·41	30·57		28·21	37·09	36·07	17·74	37·01	..									...
432	29·46	31·10	29·72	32·86	29·74		41·27	46·06	37·16	30·15	45·05										
627	33·56	37·20	31·47	45·99	22·04		48·40	44·36	37·61	26·15	43·71										
542	42·70	31·76	26·88	38·76	26·53		41·59	42·75	14·85	31·53	44·09										
416	38·51	41·84	39·15	34·01	34·78		31·47	40·45	49·27	18·57	40·11										
447	46·19	40·05	40·02	41·79	32·85		45·54	42·26	41·24	3··54	43·41										..
499	38···	31·76	31·47	34·03	24·93		39·47	45·92	39·30	31·34	40·77	.	...							...	...
342	38·45	44·81	36·30	31·52	2··47		44·73	44·81	42·21	18·73	44·77										...
457	31··5	36·18	32·31	31·15	29·60		37·89	42·22	36·87	38·76	39·70										..
680	39·23	40·19	34·19	1··,2	27·23		27·17	28·44	3··04	1··01	32·19	.									...
853	1··,3	41·04	40·91	7·,·8	30·05		31·43	35·06	41·7,	16·02	34·61	.	.	.	.						...
572	39·6,	41·,1	1··,3	38·99	32·68		3··06	35·62	37·10	2··46	38·98	..									...
783	40·51	41·51	38·35	32·29	2··31		38·7,	36·36	38·17	19·55	34·51	..									...
553	14·65	43·66	43·01	12·66	30·21		17·97	34·61	11·11	87·13	30·67	.									.
513	45·07	10·45	41·77	31·17	32·06		38·49	38·13	13·90	6·1·,	41·01										..
489	14·13	45·96	43·51	44·66	35·70		32·52	39·23	38·,3	32·61	45·42	.									...
550	46·88	32·18	43·06	44·79	32·09		37·12	10·44	11·11	49·53	40·16										...
463	34·09	3··17	40·01	44·80	27·61		33·83	3··50	31·62	19·72	47·54	.									..
659	43·42	3··63	40·60	38·31	23·28		28·65	30·71	15·50	47·32	38·54	.									...
595	39·06	39·25	36·25	38·20	26·12		36·81	34·92	39·36	18·18	38·30	...	.								...
443	33·85	37·22	37·40	43·45	29·67		12·63	40·80	31·41	45·78	47·28	..	..								...

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY—*concluded.*

Bengal industries.

*3. Will the Government be pleased to state what effect has been given to the recommendations made by Mr. Swan in his report on Bengal industries?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to Babu Surendra Nath Banerji in reply to a similar question at the meeting of the Council held on the 13th December, 1915. Financial considerations preclude the appointment of a Director of Industries at the present time. Meanwhile, the industrial problem in Bengal is being again examined in connection with the inquiries of the Indian Industrial Commission."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Subsidizing of industries by Govt.

*4. (*a*) Are the Government considering the desirability of subsidizing or guaranteeing a minimum profit to any industry or industries in the Province?

(*b*) If so, on what terms will aid be given?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"Government have under consideration applications for Government aid to several industries in Bengal. They are not yet in a position to say whether, or on what terms, aid will be given."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Local administrations and industries.

*5. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any information as to what the other local administrations are doing in the matter of granting subvention, or guaranteeing any minimum profits to, or otherwise helping, any industries?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the published reports of other Governments. Our Government have no further information."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Economic position in Bengal.

*6. (*a*) Have the Government considered the recommendations of the District Administration Committee in regard to the economic position in Bengal, particularly of the middle classes?

(*b*) Are the Government taking any action thereon?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of inviting the opinion of public bodies on this question?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell on the Resolution moved by Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharraf Husain at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th March, 1916."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Improvement in date and sugarcane cultivation.

*7. What steps, if any, have been taken by the Government during the last two years to improve the cultivation of date and sugarcane, and to increase the output of sugar, both raw and refined, in the Province?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

"In 1914, soon after the outbreak of the war, Mr. Annett, the Agricultural Chemist, was deputed by Government to make a tour of the eastern, western and central districts of the Presidency to examine the possibilities of increasing the output of sugar, and to advise district officers and persons interested in the industry as to the action to be taken. Though it was then too late to do anything in the way of increasing the cane-sugar crop in 1914, it appeared that the cultivators in some districts had already realised the possibilities for sugarcane in the following season. Inquiries showed that owing to the decline of the date-sugar industry in recent years, a considerable number of date-trees were annually left untapped, and every endeavour was made to encourage the tapping of date-trees on a large scale. The measures taken in 1914 were repeated in 1915. The area under sugarcane is estimated to have increased from 218,300 acres in 1913-14 and 233,400 in 1914-15 to 233,500 acres in 1915-16, and the total production of cane-*gur* and date-*gur* was estimated at 5,176,600 cwt. and 1,983,800 cwt. in 1915-16, compared with 4,896,500 cwt. and 1,947,000 cwt. in 1913-14. During this period the Agricultural Chemist has continued his investigations at the Dacca Farm of the qualities of various kinds of indigenous and imported canes. He has also investigated methods of improving the manufacture and transport of palm sugar, and he has recommended a very simple and effective method of improving the collection of palm juice, which is widely practised in Madras, *viz.*, the spreading of a thin coat of lime on the inside of the pot, thereby preventing fermentation and increasing the outturn of sugar. Mr. Annett has also investigated the process of refining sugar, both at the Tarpur Sugar Works and elsewhere. He has made practical suggestions for improving the process. The Hon'ble Member, and all others interested in the subject, are recommended to read the paper which Mr. Annett recently laid before the Provincial Agricultural Association. The paper has been placed in the Press Room at Calcutta."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Consumption etc., of sugar in Bengal

*8. (*a*) What is the total annual consumption of sugar, raw and refined, in Bengal?

(*b*) What portion of it is produced in the country and what portion is imported from foreign countries?

(*c*) How many sugar factories exist in the Province?

(*d*) Have the Government any idea as to the number of indigenous sugar refineries in Bengal?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"(*a*) The total consumption of sugar, raw and refined, in Bengal is estimated at 430,000 tons per annum.

(*b*) Of this quantity 70 per cent. is produced in this country and 30 per cent. is imported.

(*c*) There are three sugar factories in Bengal—one at Cossipore, a small concern at Tarpur in the district of Jessore and one in Kushtia in the district of Nadia.

(*d*) There are several petty refining concerns engaged in the sugar industry, but Government are not in a position to give exact details as to their number.

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Reviving of indigo cultivation in Bengal

*9. Are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry as to the possibilities of reviving indigo cultivation in Bengal, particularly in those areas which were at one time under such cultivation?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

"The problem of reviving indigo is industrial even more than agricultural. The Hon'ble Member is recommended to bring this matter to the notice of the Provincial Committee, which is considering the evidence to be placed before the Indian Industrial Commission."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Education of backward classes in Bengal.

* 10. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the special steps taken during the last three years for the education of the backward classes in Bengal?

(*b*) What was the amount of money spent on this account during the period mentioned?

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL replied :—

"(*a*) During the years 1913-14 to 1915-16 the following steps were taken (A) for the expansion and improvement of education among Santhals in the districts of Bankura, Birbhum and Midnapore, (B) for the provision of further facilities for the education of the children of labourers employed in tea-gardens, and (C) for the education of the children of labourers employed in factories.

(A) *Santhal Education.*—The measures taken for the development of education among the Santhals included the improvement of existing Santhal schools by raising the pay of the teachers, the establishment of ten new schools and the appointment of two assistant sub-inspectors of schools for the inspection of Santhal schools. Six special lower primary scholarships for Santhals were also created, a training school at Saranga in the district of Bankura was made a central school for the training of Santhal teachers, and a grant was made for the payment of the fees of Santhal boys attending ordinary primary schools.

The annual cost of the scheme, which came into operation in 1915-16, is Rs. 10,257. In addition to this, special annual grants aggregating Rs. 9,000 a year are made for Santhal education.

(B) *The education of the children of labourers employed in tea-gardens.*—A scheme for the expansion of education among the children of labourers in the tea-gardens of Jalpaiguri was drawn up by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government in 1910, and ten schools were established by it, which are maintained at an annual cost of Rs. 1,080. In pursuance of this scheme, 30 new schools were built towards the end of last year with a Government grant of Rs. 5,250. The recurring cost of these schools will be Rs. 1,368 a year.

The schools in the tea estates of Darjeeling are mostly under the management of the Scottish Mission, and Government make an annual grant of Rs. 1,300 to them. For some years past Government have also made a grant of Rs. 8,352 per annum to a school for the training of primary school teachers for hill schools, which was enhanced last year by Rs. 840 in order to provide more stipends for *gurus* in training. A capital grant of Rs. 850 was at the same time made for the equipment of the training school.

(C) *The Education of Factory Children.*—This question was discussed in conference with representatives of the jute mills. The Indian Jute Mills Association was consulted as to the measures that should be taken, and an officer was placed on special duty who prepared a scheme. This scheme, which has been approved by Government, provides for the establishment of 9 schools exclusively for the education of children of mill-hands at an initial cost of Rs. 27,000 and an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 6,480. The preliminary action necessary for the initiation of the scheme is being taken.

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL replied—*concluded.*

(*b*) A statement showing the total expenditure on the education of the backward classes for each year of the triennium is given below :—

	Rs.
1913-14	19,732
1914-15	19,732
1915-16	36,929

These sums exclude the cost of scholarships reserved for members of the backward classes."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Dacca University scheme.

* 11. (*a*) Does the modified scheme referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon in his last budget speech differ in any respect from that contained in the Government Resolution published upon the Dacca University Committee's Report of 1912 ?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of publishing the modified scheme for the information of the public ?

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL replied :—

"(*a*) The modified scheme mentioned by the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon in his last Budget speech differs from that referred to in the resolution recorded by Government on the report of the Dacca University Committee. As explained by the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon, the cost of the latter scheme amounts to about 59 lakhs, whereas the cost of the modified scheme is Rs 38,40,000 and its execution will merely be the preliminary to carrying out the larger scheme recommended by the Dacca University Committee

(*b*) The modified scheme provides for the following institutions which will form the nucleus of the University

Dacca College,
Jagannath College,
Muhammadan College,
Women's College,
Teachers' College,
Law Department,
Department of Medical Studies and
Department of Islamic Studies

Other institutions, such as the new College, the Engineering College and the Department of Sanskritic Studies, which are included in the complete scheme, have had to be omitted, owing to the financial position The construction of a building for the Muhammadan College will be postponed until funds are available for the inauguration of the larger scheme, and it will be accommodated for the present in the old Secretariat building The Zoological, Physiological and Anatomical laboratories have also been omitted for the present, but it is hoped to find temporary accommodation for them, pending the construction of separate buildings."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Legislation for the establishment of the proposed University at Dacca.

* 12. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the legislative enactment which will be required for the establishment of the proposed University at Dacca is to be introduced in the Supreme or in the Local Legislative Council ?

(*b*) If in the latter, will the Government be pleased to state when such a measure is likely to be introduced ?

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL replied :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) Legislation for the Dacca University will be introduced in the Imperial Council. The Government of Bengal have received no official information as to the date when it will be introduced."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Alleged wrongful arrest by an Excise Sub-Inspector

* 13. (*a*) Are the Government aware that, on the night of Thursday, the 8th June last, an Excise Sub-Inspector, Mr. Manley, with the help of two other persons, arrested a Madrasi gentleman, Mr. M. P. Menon, in Chunapukur Lane, Calcutta, and on the latter protesting his innocence and inquiring about the cause of his arrest, the said Excise Sub-Inspector assaulted him, causing injuries on his person with a stick and with blows ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Police officer in charge of the Muchipara thana, Mr. S. Chatterjee, after inquiry, found the arrest to have been wrongful and improper ?

(*c*) Is it also true that he sent Mr. Menon to the Medical College where his injuries were examined ?

(*d*) Is it true that on the next day Mr. Menon, upon his appearance before Mr. Bird, the Police Commissioner, was discharged by that officer, who expressed his regret that he was unable to give him any further redress ?

(*e*) What action (if any) has the Commissioner of Excise taken with regard to the conduct of the Excise Sub-Inspector in this case ?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making an inquiry into the matter ?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"(*a*) Government are aware that on the night of Thursday, the 8th June last, an Excise Sub-Inspector, Mr. Manley, with the help of two Sergeants of Police, arrested a Madrasi gentleman, Mr M. P Menon, in Chunapukur Lane, Calcutta It is not the case, and Mr. Menon has not alleged, that he was assaulted by the Excise Sub-Inspector in the manner described. Apparently there was a scuffle in which Mr Menon assaulted the Sergeant of Police and himself received slight injuries.

(*b*) The Police Officer in charge of the Muchipara thana found the case to be one of mistaken identity

(*c*) Mr Menon was sent to the Medical College Hospital, where he was attended to. His injuries consisted of ' one small contusion on the inner side of the left side of the upper lip '

(*d*) The Deputy Commissioner of Police discharged Mr. Menon. He did not express regret that he was unable to give him any further redress, but informed him that he could take action in Court if he so desired.

(*e*) No action has been taken.

(*f*) Government made an inquiry into the matter as soon as the case was brought to their notice and found that the facts were as follows :—

Mr. Manley, a Sub-Inspector of Excise, proceeded to arrest some cocaine sellers. He arrested one man but was assaulted by a crowd and was compelled to release his prisoner At this time Mr. Menon, a Madrasi gentleman, was present looking on. The Excise officer went and obtained police assistance. When he returned he found Mr. Menon still standing about and placing his hand on his shoulder said, ' I saw this man there.' It would have been better if Mr. Manley had been more explicit, but Government are satisfied regarding his good faith. As it was, Mr. Menon became indignant, a scuffle ensued, in

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied—*concluded.*

the course of which Mr. Menon struck the Sergeant with his walking-stick, while he himself was slightly injured as described in the answer to (*e*). Mr Menon was taken to the police-station, but inquiry soon showed that although he was present when the cocaine seller was unlawfully rescued from custody and although he apparently gave no help to the authorities, yet he had taken no part in the rescue. In the circumstances, he was discharged without action being taken in respect of the scuffle between him and the Sergeant."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Alleged wrongful arrest by Police Inspector

*14. (*a*) Have the Government received a memorial from Dr. Narendra Nath Chakravarti, a medical practitioner in Calcutta and an Honorary Magistrate of Serampore, complaining of his alleged wrongful arrest at Howrah on the 17th July, 1915, by Inspector Indra Lalla Sachar of the Government Railway Police, Bandel, and of the acquittal of the said Inspector in a case brought against him for such arrest by the said Dr. Chakravarti in the Court of the Subdivisional Officer of Howrah ?

(*b*) Are the allegations contained in the said memorial substantially correct ?

(*c*) Is it true that on the 17th September, 1915, the Subdivisional Officer of Howrah at first dismissed the complaint of Dr. Chakravarti under section 203 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on the ground that the District Magistrate of Howrah had already remarked in connection with another case that the conduct of Mr. Sachar in the matter of this arrest was not blameworthy ?

(*d*) Is it true that the Sessions Judge of Howrah on the 22nd December, 1915, quashed the said order of dismissal under section 203 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and ordered a regular trial of Dr. Chakravarti's case, on the ground that the District Magistrate's remarks in his executive capacity in another case ought not to have influenced the Subdivisional Officer in the disposal of Dr. Chakravarti's complaint ?

(*e*) Is it true that Dr. Chakravarti's case was then tried by the same Subdivisional Officer who had dismissed it on the 17th September ?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the Subdivisional Officer found that Inspector Sachar did arrest Dr. Chakravarti on the 17th July, 1915, and further remarked that the accused Inspector should not have denied the fact of arrest and that "he should be sorry for what happened to a well-meaning witness, viz., the complainant" ?

(*g*) Is it true that after the above finding the Subdivisional Officer acquitted the said Inspector on the 2nd May last ?

(*h*) Has any notice been taken of the conduct of Inspector Sachar in this case ?

(*i*) Has Mr. Sachar tendered any apology either to the trying Magistrate or to Dr. Chakravarti ?

(*j*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the desirability of making any inquiries into the matter ?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

"A memorial, dated the 15th July, has been received from Dr. Chakravarti and is now under the consideration of Government. Pending a decision on the memorial, Government are not prepared to make a statement regarding the facts of the case."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Admission of students into the Sibpur Engineering College.

*15. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many applications were made during the last session for admission into the Sibpur Engineering College by students qualified for such admission ;

(*ii*) how many of them were admitted into that College ; and

(*iii*) how many of the boys admitted into the College during the last session belonged to the Dacca Division ?

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL replied :—

"Complete statistics for the Apprentice Department cannot be given, as no record has been kept of applications sent in after the latest date fixed for their receipt. All who were qualified and applied in time were admitted, there being some 70 admissions in all. Out of 73 applicants for admission to the Engineering Department, 25 were admitted, of whom 4 came from the Dacca Division."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Admission of students into the Medical College, Calcutta.

*16. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many applications were made during the last session for admission into the Calcutta Medical College by students qualified for such admission ;

(*ii*) how many of them were admitted into the College ; and

(*iii*) how many of the boys admitted into the College during the last session belonged to the Dacca Division ?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

(*i*) "Seven hundred and twenty.

(*ii*) One hundred and sixty-two.

(*iii*) Fifteen."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Number of medical students.

*17. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of students on the rolls of the Calcutta Medical College, the Calcutta Campbell Medical School and the Dacca Medical School from the time of their establishment down to the end of the year 1915 ?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"A statement is laid on the table giving figures for the years for which particulars are available."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *in his answer to Question No. 17 (starred) asked by the Hon'ble* BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, *at the Council Meeting of the 7th August, 1916.*

Year.		Medical College	Campbell Medical School.	Dacca Medical School
1898-99	...	595	256	144
1899-1900	...	569	291	176
1900-01	...	502	296	161
1901-02	...	477	271	183
1902-03	...	576	290	178
1903-04	...	613	286	175
1904-05	...	503	313	204
1905-06	...	500	270	193
1906-07	...	493	209	195
1907-08	...	492	195	213
1908-09	..	509	275	241
1909-10	..	590	288	239
1910-11	...	617	290	201
1911-12	...	675	341	242
1912-13	...	749	346	214
1913-14	...	808	364	229
1914-15	..	872	382	274
1915-16	...	937	381	254

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Proportion of registered medical practitioners to the number of villages in Bengal.

* 18. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of registered medical practitioners in Bengal and their proportion to the number of villages therein, and

(*ii*) the percentage of the entire population of Bengal, who live within the proximity of places where they can obtain the benefits of modern medical and surgical science ?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"(*i*) One thousand eight hundred and ninety three medical practitioners have been registered up to date. Calculating according to the number of villages shown in the Census Report for 1911, there is one registered practitioner for every 63 villages.

(*ii*) There are throughout the Province 602 dispensaries open to the public and it is believed that all the inhabitants of Bengal live within 15 miles of a medical institution of this kind."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Demand for medical practitioners in Bengal.

* 19. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the fact that the number of qualified medical practitioners in Bengal is far below the requisite number ?

(*b*) Is there any reason for this paucity of qualified doctors ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that this paucity is due not to the want of demand on the part of the people for medical education, but to the inadequate provision for such education ?

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA—*concluded.*

(*d*) Is it a fact that students with much higher University education than before are now found anxious to go in for medical education ?

(*e*) Has it come to the notice of Government that there is a great and daily-increasing demand for medical education in Bengal ?

(*f*) What steps, if any, have the Government taken to meet this demand during the last fifty years ?

(*g*) Are the Government aware of the general feeling that exists that the existing medical institutions, including the newly-started Belgachia Medical College, are not sufficient to meet the demand which now exists for medical education and for the turning out of a large number of qualified doctors ?

(*h*) Are the Government considering the desirability of starting additional medical schools and colleges in Bengal ?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

19. "(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The number of institutions providing modern medical education in Bengal is very limited, and the number of applicants for admission far exceeds the accommodation.

(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*e*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*f*) The Medical College, Calcutta, which was established in 1836, has been greatly improved and extended during the last 50 years The Campbell Medical School, Calcutta, was established in 1873 and the Dacca Medical School was established in 1874, and these institutions have also been enlarged and improved from time to time.

(*g*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*h*) The answer is in the affirmative. The Government are not in a position to supply unaided from its revenues medical schools and colleges to meet the demands for medical education. The provision of such facilities must in this country as in all other countries be left in a large measure to private effort."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Number of upper and lower primary schools in Bengal.

* 20. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing the number of upper and lower primary schools, and the total number of pupils attending such schools, in each district of the Presidency and the grants-in-aid made by the Government and the District Boards in each district and the different purposes for which the grants-in-aid were spent during the last five years (1911-1915) ?

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL replied :—

"Statements giving the information asked for are laid on the table. The grants-in-aid given by Government were utilised for—

(*1*) the maintenance of primary schools for boys and girls directly managed by Government :

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL replied—*concluded.*

(*2*) aid to primary schools in Khas Mahal areas ;

(*3*) aid to special primary schools for backward classes such as Sonthals, the children of labourers employed in tea-gardens, etc. ; and

(*4*) the enhancement of the pay of teachers in aided boys' primary schools in Municipal and non-Board areas. The grants-in-aid given by the District Boards were spent on the following objects :—

(*1*) Aid to boys' and girls' primary schools.

(*2*) The maintenance of Board primary schools for boys and girls.

(*3*) The enhancement of the pay of teachers in boys' aided primary schools within areas under the control of District Boards."

STATE

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell in his answer to question Meeting of the 7th August 1916 showing the number of Primary Schools in each

No	Name of District	1911-12.				1912-13.			
		Boys'—		Girls'—		Boys'—		Girls'—	
		Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Burdwan	219	1,105	9	126	211	995	3	123
2	Birbhum	104	881	1	87	108	880	8	92
3	Bankura	163	951	8	121	172	907	7	121
4	Midnapore	405	3,480	46	279	117	3,167	45	292
5	Hooghly	126	971	15	141	135	980	18	156
6	Howrah	67	669	11	55	71	670	12	59
	Total	1,084	8,055	56	809	1,115	7,519	88	843
7	24-Parganas	178	1,352	11	209	121	1,977	15	202
8	Nadia	141	572	3	130	137	558	2	130
9	Murshidabad	162	538	4	91	169	535	5	94
10	Jessore	134	842	7	222	111	792	7	191
11	Khulna	146	871	7	128	147	785	7	189
	Total	711	4,136	33	780	718	3,954	36	707
12	Orissa	25	168	3	58	26	139	2	35
	Total	25	168	3	58	26	139	2	35
13	Dacca	202	1,129	18	696	167	1,185	17	779
14	Mymensingh	164	1,112	12	889	138	1,485	13	726
15	Faridpur	161	898	4	515	126	855	5	479
16	Bakarganj	218	2,239	11	578	183	2,239	13	641
	Total	745	5,678	45	2,478	614	5,264	48	2,625
17	Chittagong	101	516	14	279	98	779	13	396
18	Noakhali	102	827	2	363	79	856	2	361
19	Tippera	186	1,176	2	542	168	1,248	3	541
20	Chittagong Hill Tracts	13	77	1	5	11	82	1	3
	Total	402	2,596	19	1,189	356	2,965	19	1,231
21	Rajshahi	78	536	3	145	78	533	4	131
22	Jalpaiguri	46	464	3	47	44	506	3	59
23	Dinajpur	72	508	1	89	66	552	2	107
24	Rangpur	126	853	3	128	124	931	5	136
25	Pabna	109	442	4	177	110	454	5	206
26	Bogra	79	412	2	297	38	495	1	313
27	Malda	54	360	1	54	63	360	1	64
28	Darjeeling	8	184	2	5	8	179	2	4
	Total	554	4,114	18	942	559	4,240	18	1,010
	Total for the Presidency	3,521	24,750	231	6,256	3,387	24,611	257	6,541

MENT I.

No. 20 (starred) asked by the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta at the Council district of the Presidency of Bengal during the five years 1911-12 to 1915-16.

1913-14.				1914-15.				1915-16.			
Boys'—		Girls'—		Boys'—		Girls'—		Boys'—		Girls'—	
Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
194	848	2	117	186	828	2	112	196	1,003	2	102
104	762	0	87	97	717	4	80	99	910	4	124
161	821	6	108	158	787	6	103	151	876	7	96
421	2,954	41	291	433	2,856	35	296	498	3,113	32	339
131	827	14	132	125	818	15	126	121	947	15	141
73	540	11	66	72	548	14	65	78	670	17	88
1,084	6,752	81	800	1,071	6,630	76	782	1,072	7,559	77	946
134	1,310	14	248	135	1,287	14	213	136	1,283	14	230
143	570	2	136	135	578	6	147	133	670	6	164
171	455	8	80	162	465	8	86	150	500	8	103
135	773	6	186	141	818	5	104	140	792	3	193
144	797	7	192	156	785	6	203	151	811	6	212
727	3 903	37	811	729	3,911	39	873	709	3 956	37	908
28	131	20	58	26	129	30	37	27	297	27	94
28	131	20	58	26	129	32	37	27	293	37	94
164	1,189	16	778	161	1,271	17	832	165	1 350	16	860
114	1,519	11	714	114	1,691	13	801	110	1,956	12	973
116	855	4	498	115	998	2	536	110	1,048	8	581
175	2,225	13	725	169	2,311	14	781	176	2,139	11	815
569	5,822	44	2,745	559	6,302	16	2 950	559	6,651	42	3,229
89	812	12	357	80	840	10	381	81	899	10	409
69	854	2	381	69	1,109	2	371	69	980	1	363
140	1,291	3	894	130	1,506	3	664	124	1,897	3	728
11	82	1	5	11	97	1	4	13	92	1	5
309	3 049	18	1,527	290	3,552	16	1 443	277	3 868	15	1,505
...	...	...	...	75	597	3	187	79	694	3	182
...	...	...	...	48	544	...	57	49	809	...	72
...	...	...	...	79	908	...	139	81	1,062	...	199
...	...	...	...	123	1,060	5	222	116	1,161	9	383
...	...	...	...	102	843	5	276	96	880	6	294
...	...	...	...	80	534	1	356	58	557	1	336
...	...	...	...	60	467	...	94	42	436	...	111
...	...	...	...	8	200	2	5	7	205	2	6
547	4,449	17	1,084	555	4 853	16	1 304	548	5,248	21	1,553
3,264	24,006	226	6 835	3 220	25 307	239	7,593	3, 92	27,273	229	8,197

not available.

STATE

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell in his answer to question Council meeting of the 7th August 1916, shewing the number of Pupils during the five years

No.	Name of District.	1911-12				1912-13.			
		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
		Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Burdwan ...	10,552	32,643	315	2,820	10,139	29,138	216	2,788
2	Birbhum ...	5,245	22,270	62	1,452	5,588	21,745	114	1,567
3	Bankura ...	8,464	30,160	481	2,183	8,651	27,860	411	2,155
4	Midnapore ...	19,155	94,745	1,115	4,684	19,136	86,050	1,034	4,732
5	Hooghly ...	6,580	29,998	577	2,870	6,817	28,811	677	3,110
6	Howrah	4,837	29,977	1,044	2,183	4,968	29,351	1,081	2,366
	Total ...	54,837	239,793	3,594	16,178	55,602	222,755	3,537	16,718
7	24 Parganas ...	7,836	70,[illegible]	909	7,120	7,905	64,398	1,056	6,779
8	Nadia ...	7,012	17,796	134	3,832	6,563	16,579	96	3,678
9	Murshidabad ...	8,217	16,547	459	2,202	8,112	15,478	454	2,118
10	Jessore ...	7,201	28,[illegible]	336	3,968	7,018	27,067	283	3,580
11	Khulna ...	7,424	29,210	260	3,728	7,135	27,727	251	3,898
	Total ...	37,783	162,014	2,098	20,848	36,733	151,249	2,140	20,053
12	Calcutta ...	2,445	9,558	3,881	2,093	2,376	8,057	3,264	2,080
	Total ...	2,445	9,558	3,881	2,093	2,376	8,057	3,264	2,080
13	Dacca ...	11,261	13,244	731	16,789	9,568	46,208	815	18,789
14	Mymensingh ...	9,323	52,175	521	12,777	7,633	55,791	539	13,613
15	Faridpur ...	8,563	32,920	271	10,049	6,826	32,877	260	9,510
16	Bakarganj ...	11,047	74,176	681	10,483	9,732	74,341	689	11,529
	Total ...	40,297	202,515	2,187	50,098	33,759	209,217	2,303	53,441
17	Chittagong ...	7,396	23,580	528	6,141	6,678	33,928	462	6,900
18	Noakhali ...	6,723	38,255	105	9,493	5,084	39,272	106	9,268
19	Tippera ...	10,932	48,628	141	12,247	9,977	54,247	194	12,107
20	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	266	1,296	6	85	226	1,371	26	48
	Total ...	25,317	111,759	780	27,969	21,965	128,818	788	28,323
21	Rajshahi ...	3,947	21,536	237	2,853	3,731	20,773	279	2,505
22	Jalpaiguri ...	2,062	14,998	[illegible]	825	1,895	14,779	[illegible]	1,008
23	Dinajpur ...	3,516	27,524	42	1,720	3,118	26,383		1,935
24	Rangpur ...	6,162	32,338	147	2,702	5,570	33,275	279	2,774
25	Pabna ...	6,563	17,252	215	4,603	6,615	17,799	239	5,077
26	Bogra ...	3,730	17,398	187	6,825	3,661	18,237	44	6,767
27	Malda ...	2,975	12,045	75	1,256	3,116	11,532	73	1,381
28	Darjeeling ...	545	4,271	118	279	579	3,816	196	138
	Total ...	29,500	146,462	1,021	21,263	28,955	146,672	1,100	21,585
	Total for the Presidency ...	190,179	872,101	13,564	138,449	179,390	866,768	13,132	142,200

MENT II.

No. 20 (starred) asked by the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta at the attending Primary Schools in each district of the Presidency of Bengal 1911-12 to 1915-16.

1913-14.				1914-15.				1915-16			
Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9,361	36,597	100	2,747	8,408	33,503	83	2,909	9,065	38,938	112	3,678
5,320	19,472	131	1,440	4,518	17,180	127	1,329	4,876	21,959	132	2,261
7,802	24,686	410	1,438	7,327	22,642	370	1,708	7,482	26,194	361	1,614
19,726	80,175	1,033	4,915	20,422	78,330	848	4,864	20,329	83,363	758	5,547
6,736	25,518	668	2,006	6,295	26,141	644	2,942	6,041	29,771	650	3,181
4,900	24,480	1,035	2,634	4,810	24,814	1,122	2,487	4,730	28,837	1,346	2,914
53,745	199,878	3,397	16,600	51,874	192,460	3,322	16,033	52 163	219,012	3 359	19,182
8,701	67,993	1,013	7,912	8,726	68,083	1,056	7,899	8,614	67,439	1,045	7,882
6,893	16,167	180	3,791	5,861	15,670	351	3,739	5,976	15,704	422	4,090
8,136	13,842	577	1,740	7,064	13,406	672	1,815	6,537	13 230	613	2,041
6,902	27,358	244	3,590	6,961	25,618	247	3 751	6,490	24,511	135	4,655
7,355	24,937	361	3,955	8,133	27,247	269	4,003	7,518	26,983	274	4,204
37,987	153,034	2,225	20,984	34,743	151,763	2,520	21,207	45,065	147,847	2,489	21,816
2,830	7 580	3,298	2 357	2,029	7,348	3,514	2,211	2,199	14 479	4,024	3,519
2,830	7,580	3,298	2,357	2,029	7,348	3,514	2,211	2,199	14,479	4,024	3,519
9,863	41,685	772	11,477	9,610	44,479	980	20,551	9,282	44,160	454	20,894
6,561	56,635	139	14,212	6,521	63,972	517	16,311	5,019	67,607	198	20,074
8,025	34,954	320	10,219	5,806	37,554	65	11,246	5,217	38,514	97	11,962
8,773	75,890	643	12,932	8 411	7 ,421	744	14 211	8,576	81,651	652	15,370
33,772	213,174	2,144	58,480	30,178	221,226	2,906	102,317	24,724	337,932	3,128	68,249
8,145	38,010	466	8,052	5,379	38,283	478	8,925	5,417	39,202	413	9,457
4 722	39,717	109	9,452	5,241	42,746	89	9,957	3,758	43,013	78	9,857
8,819	52,959	221	13,164	7,911	62 315	312	15,298	7,316	63,306	193	16,470
239	1,434	27	101	257	1,614	18	64	277	1,315	25	84
19,985	132,114	823	31,178	17,478	144,611	707	34,249	16,818	147,237	705	35,077
...	...	...	...	3,341	21,559	252	3,016	3,599	24,183	217	3,401
...	...	...	...	1,971	15,229	...	1,020	1,996	16,996	...	1,396
...	...	...	...	3,925	24,883	...	2,292	3,668	31,239	...	3,406
...	...	...	...	5,310	37,631	234	4,484	4,947	37,753	470	6,979
...	...	...	...	4,947	16,906	414	6,729	4,706	17,364	315	7,965
...	...	...	...	3 045	14,658	72	7,037	3,911	16,797	74	7 091
...	...	...	...	2,577	12,002	...	2,015	2,667	12,815	...	4,384
...	...	...	...	311	4,350	226	207	277	4,446	220	261
26,863	149,806	1,226	22,853	25,429	157,256	1,228	27,203	26,713	163,613	1,316	31,788
171,664	854,266	13,126	13,808	164,131	892,534	13,495	202 306	159,715	938,599	14 051	199,685

Are not available

STATE

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell in his answer to question Council meeting of the 7th August 1916, showing the amount of grants the five years

No.	Name of District.	1911-12				1912-13.			
		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
		Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Burdwan	2,767	1,062	577	1,224	3,023	1,080	880	1,417
2	Birbhum	1,723	4,330	473	1,605	1,832	4,695	912	1,174
3	Bankura	2,379	755	1,652	217	2,467	841	1,605	252
4	Midnapore	5,378	4,225	1,427	2,160	3,231	4,952	1,495	1,594
5	Hooghly	2,379	348	1,523	4,828	2,110	312	1,826	4,869
6	Howrah	1,966	14	1,865	858	1,854	27	2,486	425
	Total .	17,594	10,724	7,517	12,782	16,517	11,907	9,204	10,091
7	24-Parganas	6,052	3,469	3,311	12,575	5,467	3,870	4,800	9,654
8	Nadia	4,524	246	42	4,459	4,359	228	*	4,461
9	Murshidabad	4,839	380	943	3,398	4,837	345	872	3,749
10	Jessore	5,953	416	1,222	921	5,279	410	1,175	887
11	Khulna	3,821	950	784	1,650	3,218	853	652	1,517
	Total ..	24,989	5,401	6,282	23,003	23,160	5,206	7,499	20,268
12	Calcutta	2,586	5,907	12,802	7,919	2,625	4,421	12,785	8,638
	Total .	2,586	5,907	12,802	7,919	2,625	4,421	12,785	8,638
13	Dacca	1,835	154	956	4,861	1,715	187	852	2,227
14	Mymensingh	3,124	259	850	1,163	2,481	282	767	1,038
15	Faridpur	2,213	939	817	1,381	2,198	920	871	1,586
16	Bakarganj	2,974	3,291	1,526	769	2,883	3,340	1,657	861
	Total ...	10,226	4,623	4,129	8,174	9,277	4,729	4,127	5,712
17	Chittagong	2,950	3,611	543	731	2,646	3,944	715	1,649
18	Noakhali	1,300	1,189	*	2,061	1,413	1,622	200	2,333
19	Tippera	2,285	944	600	3,193	2,103	732	1,220	3,227
20	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	2,183	8,594	*	767	2,110	8,564	396	432
	Total .	8,718	14,338	1,143	6,752	8,272	14,862	2,531	7,641
21	Rajshahi	1,053	83	765	618	1,107	48	1,065	627
22	Jalpaiguri	2,138	3,886	*	503	2,111	4,135	*	1,226
23	Dinajpur	1,018	135	*	445	1,040	150	*	441
24	Rangpur	1,437	*	624	573	1,484	2	1,008	144
25	Pabna	730	318	20	683	722	461	30	659
26	Bogra	555	411	800	2,180	376	470	*	2,367
27	Malda	780	625	180	582	889	699	452	600
28	Darjeeling	1,562	12,910	597	880	1,583	11,908	970	598
	Total ...	9,273	18,368	2,986	6,464	8,311	18,613	3,522	6,543
	Total for the Presidency ...	73,386	59,271	34,839	65,054	69,362	59,733	39,668	59,013

MENT III.

No. 20 (starred) asked by the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta at the in-aid paid by Government to Primary Schools in each district during 1911-12 to 1915-16.

1913-14.				1914-15.				1915-16.			
Boys.		Girls.		Boys		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
9,309	13,818	596	1,503	8,841	15,519	578	3,306	3,845	1,577	571	3,662
1,704	4,905	1,867	820	2,264	4,592	1,638	988	2,424	7,089	1,654	643
2,815	1,268	1,747	242	7,594	9,615	1,747	456	4,365	3,327	1,939	80
4,898	3,787	2,354	1,655	5,414	6,230	1,805	2,131	6,290	11,382	1,167	4,945
1,659	1,917	1,553	5,722	1,332	1,269	1,553	5,599	2,153	2,738	1,514	5,763
1,787	29	2,879	1,327	2,715	662	3,287	2,290	2,565	3,307	3,514	2,476
22,100	24,212	10,496	11,269	28,160	38,108	10,418	16,770	21,042	22,390	10,359	18,175
6,685	5 534	4,675	11,542	6,580	6,147	4,861	11,674	6,571	5,558	5,075	11,634
4,523	659	[illegible]	4,524	5,219	875	1,097	4,827	1,297	858	1 384	4,382
5,081	992	1,669	3 129	5,114	1,160	1,911	3,587	3,011	1,129	2,141	3,147
5,431	618	1,241	986	5,894	463	1,215	1,980	5,340	462	673	2 350
3,516	1,114	672	2,058	3,653	980	679	2,230	3,459	710	695	1,797
25,236	8,902	8,257	22,240	26,260	9,625	9,763	23,598	25,687	8,692	9,968	23,210
4,211	6 785	11,922	7,704	4,339	7,377	18,806	7,861	4,088	16,025	20,004	7,991
4 211	6,785	11,922	7,704	4 339	7,377	18,806	7,861	4,088	16,025	20,004	7,991
2 119	787	1,243	2,589	2,511	732	2 703	4,957	2,983	1,308	3,653	5,991
3,079	988	1,732	864	3 [illegible]	983	2,296	1,286	1 368	1,139	2,265	1,646
1,905	1,415	1,472	1,258	2,582	1,514	1,090	2,681	3,212	1,814	1,781	2,431
3,470	4,498	2,216	3,186	4,124	5,162	2,671	2,296	4,237	5,880	2,564	1,756
10,573	7,538	6,663	8,996	12,870	8,421	8,826	11,120	11,800	10,141	10,263	11,727
3,059	5,128	889	1,556	3,849	5,409	839	988	3 872	5,682	541	1,42
1,411	2,010	480	3,187	1,557	2,021	471	3,074	1,650	2,056	250	4,024
2,403	950	941	4,402	2,783	1,014	1,243	4,498	4,018	1,214	1,147	4,468
3,345	9,459	268	560	2,142	10,010	330	549	2 911	10,465	306	1,126
9,118	17,957	2,578	9,695	10,321	18,454	2,573	9,009	11,051	19,415	2,274	10,648
...	...	...	...	1,299	576	1 845	802	1,738	648	1,350	787
..	...	..	...	3,458	2,503	*	1,700	3,679	2,450	*	2,110
...	...	...	...	1,079	840	*	441	1,566	379	*	460
...	...	..	...	1,767	70	1,438	12	3,155	84	2,767	14
...	...	...	...	717	761	778	753	893	762	1,044	975
...	...	...	...	1,128	606	*	2,698	1,200	800	*	2,700
...	...	...	...	1,067	704	*	708	1,104	962	*	638
...	...	...	...	1,966	17,801	1,488	874	2,179	17 604	1,755	868
9,884	19,769	5,595	9,673	13,062	20,171	5,534	7,965	15,514	23,889	6,916	8,542
61,169	93,163	45,609	66,575	96,032	1,03,185	56,725	74,313	92,192	1,00,052	59,784	80,196

are not available

STATE

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell in his answer to question Meeting of the 7th August 1916 showing the amount of grants-in-aid five years

No.	Name of District.	1911-12. Boys. Upper Primary.	1911-12. Boys. Lower Primary.	1911-12. Girls. Upper Primary.	1911-12. Girls. Lower Primary.	1912-13. Boys. Upper Primary.	1912-13. Boys. Lower Primary.	1912-13. Girls. Upper Primary.	1912-13. Girls. Lower Primary.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Burdwan	7,[illegible]70	11,745	128	2,404	8,818	13,726	...	2,085
2	Birbhum	3,658	5,129	*	898	3,837	[illegible],130	41	1,060
3	Bankura	6,373	9,655	48	1,547	7,829	10,980	60	1,324
4	Midnapur	10,200	28,555	1,730	4,078	10,835	28,560	669	4,[illegible]
5	Hooghly	5,444	7,381	54	1,019	7,054	10,293	153	1,420
6	Howrah	2,468	6,344	180	2,891	3,460	9,773	180	3,893
	Total ...	39,413	68,819	2,140	12,6[illegible]7	49,833	83,662	2,103	14,331
7	24-Parganas	2,524	21,823	*	3,149	5,271	22,944	*	3,414
8	Nadia	5,857	8,797	162	1,786	6,473	9,675	156	1,801
9	Murshidabad	4,333	8,562	*	1,604	5,846	9,527	*	1,667
10	Jessore	6,066	12,388	145	2,888	7,201	13,380	170	3,117
11	Khulna	6,093	10,592	186	2,532	5,993	10,842	204	3,612
	Total ...	25,373	62,162	493	12,159	30,780	66,368	530	13,611
12	Calcutta	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
13	Dacca	9,283	27,762	706	19,022	8,872	28,700	631	16,819
14	Mymensingh	8,147	45,484	168	16,765	6,028	52,834	261	17,146
15	Faridpur	6,887	18,425	313	10,841	5,501	18,551	3[illegible]8	8,109
16	Bakarganj	9,957	27,532	444	6,544	9,2[illegible]0	33,246	505	7,555
	Total	34,369	1,19,203	1,631	53,172	29,623	1,33,331	1,738	49,629
17	Chittagong	4,180	15,405	480	5,701	4,087	17,[illegible]	551	5,4[illegible]1
18	Noakhali	7,088	26,554	423	8,920	5,553	26,85[illegible]	540	9,278
19	Tippera	8,172	31,094	15	9,502	8,028	37,179	24	9,428
20	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Total ...	19,390	73,053	928	24,123	17,648	81,437	1,115	24,117
21	Rajshahi	6,619	17,175	*	4,819	6,199	16,637	*	3,618
22	Jalpaiguri	2,398	16,469	*	1,826	2,740	20,957	*	1,924
23	Dinajpur	4,009	15,399	96	2,655	3,930	17,262	*	2,824
24	Rangpur	8,712	30,079	120	6,073	7,306	34,732	658	5,702
25	Pabna	6,616	15,246	506	6,249	7,243	18,226	579	6,762
26	Bogra	3,749	10,145	260	8,042	3,183	9,560	499	9,039
27	Malda	3,102	9,093	180	1,458	3,295	9,498	180	1,727
28	Darjeeling	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Total ...	35,276	1,14,446	1,162	31,122	34,196	1,24,872	1,916	31,606
	Total for the Presidency ...	1,50,021	4,37,683	6,354	1,33,313	1,62,080	4,89,670	7,402	1,33,394

MENT IV,

No. 20 (starred) aked by the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta at the Council paid by District Boards to Primary Schools in each district during the 1911-12 to 1915-16.

1913-14.				1914-15.				1915-16.			
Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
9,966	16,239	*	1,937	17,004	32,960	*	2,217	17,805	33,734	*	6,851
8,878	15,958	77	1,205	9,167	16,723	*	1,632	9,739	22,005	*	2,402
14,377	18,046	*	1,859	12,408	9,572	*	1,832	16,381	21,830	*	1,830
26,992	53,212	905	8,789	34,607	64,346	950	8,746	39,713	75,391	946	4,187
6,691	9,171	84	1,240	16 285	21,260	78	1,147	18,315	22,161	91	1,402
6,927	18,072	376	5,498	8,898	19,326	441	4,207	8,760	22,880	540	9,390
80,924	1,84,171	1,532	13,478	1,01,589	1,72 177	1,472	14,781	1,05,213	1,97,701	1,577	21,842
7,620	31,091	...	6,278	9,321	42,493	..	5,676	10,153	42,705	*	6,005
12,741	14,997	237	2,773	13,402	19,343	60	3,832	14,867	23 467	174	3 518
12,474	14,204	.	1,243	14,363	14,925	61	1,727	12,210	16,259	98	1,704
11,805	22,068	87	2,902	12,010	21,630	84	2 834	11,600	24,063	96	3,972
10,83.	20,376	228	2,864	11,952	21,303	201	3,727	10,681	22,285	253	4,837
54,784	1,02,737	552	16,120	57,948	1,19,494	712	17,796	59,514	1,23,379	619	20,036
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
16,171	44,337	878	17,012	16,641	51,398	513	17,478	16,398	55,738	415	19,892
9,021	88,206	227	18,869	10,525	102,205	275	21,302	9,408	1,07,192	366	23,796
7 329	31,779	240	7,864	7,965	34,713	121	8,265	7,542	42,677	120	8,494
12,503	50,792	158	13 311	14,152	61,652	285	9,027	14,653	68,214	292	7,428
45 020	2,11 014	1,603	56,886	19,273	2 52,916	1,201	56,072	47,991	2,73,821	1,193	61,923
6 877	31,170	522	6,458	7 057	38,144	512	6,801	7,060	40,534	521	6,704
7,128	40,508	490	9,389	6,118	46,305	527	10,734	5 545	45,149	550	11,318
8,815	49,892	*	13,262	9,182	61,251	*	12,992	10,308	70,012	*	13,442
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
22,820	1,21,858	1,012	29,109	22,357	1,45,701	1,039	29,827	22,913	1,55,695	971	31,464
...	*	..	..	12,193	37,0.3	120	4,720	12,395	3d 373	10	5,922
...	.	...	...	5,695	26,841	*	1,580	5,253	47,318	*	2,081
...		.	..	7,206	42,082	*	6,208	7,696	35,885	*	8,105
...	...	...	...	12,423	65,726	867	12,027	12,819	33,497	1,346	14,346
...	...	...	...	9,005	28,817	920	12,819	8 620	23,981	904	10,900
...	...	...	...	5,447	23,729	518	9,849	4,710	34,007	54	8,982
...	...	...		6,321	21,574	*	3,529	4,209	16,668	*	2,001
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
53,762	2,15,397	2,271	41,536	58,329	2,55,172	2,425	50,749	53,502	2,63,674	2,804	53,387
2,67,310	8,06,755	6,970	1,57,129	2,89,496	9,49,992	6,881	1,59,225	2,89,123	10,22,170	7,093	1,57,262

not available.

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Number of students receiving education in colleges in Bengal.

*21. Will the Government be pleased to state the percentage of students seeking admission to, and actually receiving education in, colleges during the last ten years?

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL replied :—

"This Government have no information as to the number of students who applied for admission to the colleges in Bengal during the last ten years nor would it be possible for Government to collect the statistics asked for by the Hon'ble Member. Statements of the number of students in colleges situated in Bengal which are affiliated to the Calcutta University for each year of the last decennium will be found in the annual reports of the Directors of Pubilc Instruction of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Inadequate accommodation and staff in colleges in Bengal.

*22. Are the Government aware that the accommodation and staff in the existing colleges are inadequate to meet the growing demand for collegiate education?

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL replied :—

"The Government of Bengal are aware that the number of applicants for admission to Government colleges is in excess of the existing accommodation. They have no definite information regarding other colleges."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Difficulty of admission of students to colleges in Bengal.

*23. (*a*) Are the Government aware that the students now find great difficulty in obtaining admission to colleges in Bengal?

(*b*) Has this matter already engaged the attention of the Government and have they formulated any scheme or policy to meet the new situation?

(*c*) In any case, will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken during the last ten years to cope with the problem?

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL replied :—

"(*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to Question No. 22.

(*b*) & (*c*) The affiliation of colleges is governed by the University regulations, and is a matter in which this Government have no jurisdiction. As the Hon'ble Member is doubtless aware, the Government of Bengal have put forward a scheme for establishing a new University at Dacca. The Government have established and maintain a certain number of colleges at the cost of the public funds, and it is open to any private body or association to submit a scheme for the establishment of a new college for the consideration of the University."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Floods in the district of Tippera.

*24. (*a*) Are the Government aware that many important roads and bridges in the district of Tippera have been damaged by the last year's flood, and that the District Board of Tippera find themselves unable to repair the same in consequence of the strain put upon their resources by the relief work necessitated by that flood?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that many urgent original works (construction of roads, bridges, tanks, etc.), which the Board had decided to take up, have been kept in abeyance for the same reason?

(*c*) Are the Government contemplating making any grant in favour of the Tippera District Board to help them to tide over this crisis and to enable them to execute the aforementioned works?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

"(*a*) It is reported that the sum of Rs. 20,720 was spent by the District Board of Tippera during the year 1915-16 on repairs to roads damaged by floods. Government have no information as to the repairs still required.

(*b*) Government have no information on the subject.

(*c*) The financial position of the Tippera District Board is under consideration."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Relief work in the district of Tippera.

* 25. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of money spent up to date by the Government and by the District Board of Tippera for relief of distress caused in Tippera by the last year's flood—

(*i*) on gratuitous relief.

(*ii*) on agricultural loan, and

(*iii*) on test relief work ;

(*b*) the number of men actually in receipt of gratuitous relief, and of men actually employed in test relief works, in July 1916, and of men who have received agricultural loans up to July 1916 ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the *aus* crop has failed to the extent of 12 annas in the Brahmanbaria and Sadar subdivisions of Tippera ;

(*d*) whether, in connection with the *aman* crop, it is a fact that in a very considerable part of the Brahmanbaria subdivision the seeds purchased by the cultivators from unknown and outside dealers have been found to be unsuitable to the soil and the paddy plants have been found unable to keep abreast with the rising water ;

(*e*) what is the present condition of—

(*i*) the cultivators,

(*ii*) the labourers, and

(*iii*) the poor *bhadraloks*,

in the Brahmanbaria and Sadar subdivisions in Tippera ;

(*f*) whether these people are now in a position to get on without the help which they have been receiving from the Government and the District Board ?

(*g*) whether there is any foundation for the rumour that the Government have decided to close the relief operations from the 1st of August, 1916 ?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

		Rs.
"(*a*) Gratuitous relief	... ...	1,01,000
Loans ...	... ...	9,75,500
Relief Works	... ...	1,10,000

(*b*) During the weeks ending July 1, 8, 15 and 22, the daily average number of people in receipt of gratuitous relief varied from 5,664 to 9,155, and the daily average number of people employed on relief works varied from 791 to 2,162. The loans were distributed on joint bonds. The number of individuals who received money in this way is not readily available.

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied—*concluded.*

(*c*) There was a partial failure this year of the early *aus* crop in the Brahmanbaria and Sadar Subdivisions. The early *aus* crop represents about one-third of the whole *aus* crop and the outturn of the early *aus* is estimated at 6 annas of a normal crop.

(*d*) It has been reported that in places the cultivators who bought seed from outside the district for the *barshal* crop have found the seed to be unsuitable and that the growth of paddy has been unable to keep pace with the rise of the water.

(*e*) The reports received by Government as to the condition of the people in the Brahmanbaria and Sadar Subdivisions are, on the whole, satisfactory.

(*f*) It is hoped that from now onwards the people will be able to maintain themselves without much official relief, but the situation is being carefully watched by the local officers.

(*g*) Government understand that the relief works were practically closed at the end of July and that the distribution of gratuitous relief is being gradually decreased. The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell will visit the district in the course of this week and will examine the situation in the villages."

By the Hon'ble MR. PRAVASH CHANDRA MITRA :—

Dr. Bentley's anti-malarial scheme.

*26. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether Dr. Bentley's scheme of flooding one or two areas experimentally as an anti-malarial measure is ready?

(*b*) If so—

(*i*) what is the estimated expense ;

(*ii*) have any places been selected ; and

(*iii*) when is the experiment to be commenced?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

(*a*) & (*b*) A scheme, involving an estimated cost of Rs. 30,000, has been prepared for the town of Jangipur in the district of Murshidabad. Another scheme for flooding a rural area in the district of Burdwan is also under preparation. According to the estimate as it stands at present, the cost of the latter scheme will be Rs. 70,000. Provision has been made for the cost of both schemes from the sanitary grant, and it is hoped that they will be started during the present year."

By the Hon'ble MR. PRAVASH CHANDRA MITRA :—

Expenditure on the development of industries.

*27. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is intended to spend any sum of money out of the provision in the last budget for one lakh of rupees for expenditure on the development of industries pending the appointment of a Director of Industries?

(*b*) If so—

(*i*) has any scheme been adopted ; or

(*ii*) have any definite industries been selected?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"Government are not in a position at present to say whether the provision of one lakh for the development of industries will be expended during the current year."

By the Hon'ble MR. PRAVASH CHANDRA MITRA :—

Construction of a spill area for Tolly's Nala

*28. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any decision has been arrived at as to the desirability of constructing a spill area for the Tolly's Nala?

(*b*) If so, has any progress been made for the preparation of a definite scheme for the purpose?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) No decision has yet been arrived at.

A note dealing with the subject has recently been received from Mr. Addams-Williams, which shows that, before any decision can be arrived at, more detailed observations of the progress and effect of the tides at various points along Tolly's Nala will be necessary. These observations can be most conveniently made only at the end of the winter season."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

Railway communication in Rajshahi.

I. (*a*) Are the Government aware that the people of Malda are suffering great hardship owing to the want of communication with the nearest railway station at Godagari, which is 16 or 17 miles from Rampur-Boalia?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any likelihood of the proposed railway between Ishurdi and Godagari viâ Rampur-Boalia being constructed at an early date, either by the Government, or by a private company, as in the case of the Ishurdi-Sirajganj line?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the District Board of Rajshahi recently approached the Government for permission to construct for the present a light railway between Ishurdi and Godagari, if any delay was feared in the carrying out of the scheme referred to in clause (*b*)?

(*d*) If so, what decision has been arrived at?

(*e*) If the railway scheme is not to be taken in hand at present, are the Government considering the desirability of assisting the District Board of Rajshahi to complete the metalling of the Boalia-Godagari road, either with direct Government help or by a loan?

The following Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN was laid on the table.—

"(*a*) The Government of Bengal are aware of the need of further railway communication in the Malda district.

(*b*) The Railway Board have informed the Government of Bengal that there is no likelihood of the line from Godagari *viâ* Rampur Boalia to Natore or Ishurdi being constructed while the war lasts either by Government or by a private company, but that the question will be taken up as soon as the financial situation improves.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The proposal is under the consideration of the Railway Board.

(*e*) The reply is in the negative."

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

Steamer communication in Rajshahi.

II. (*a*) Are the Government aware that great inconvenience is being felt by the public on account of the discontinuance of the daily steamer-service between Damukdia and Rampur-Boalia and also between Sara and Rampur-Boalia?

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI—*concluded.*

(*b*) Is it a fact that objection has been raised to the proposal of the India General Steam Navigation and Railway Company to have a station at Paksi, so that they may continue their daily service between Paksi and Rampur-Boalia?

(*c*) Have the Government considered the desirability of utilizing the railway line now existing between Sara and Ishurdi for goods and passenger traffic?

(*d*) Is it a fact that a representation was made to Government through Mr. O'Malley, while he was Collector of Rajshahi, on the subject of the hardship that the public in this part of the province suffer from in regard to communications? If so, with what result?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No objection has been raised by the Eastern Bengal Railway to the Steamer Companies having a station at Paksi Ghat for interchange of passenger traffic with the railway, but the proposal was abandoned by the Steamer Companies as the ghat was considered unsuitable for the berthing of steamers.

(*c*) Inquiries are being made as to the possibility and advantage of running the Serajganj branch train service through Ishurdi to and from Sara.

(*d*) Yes. The question of the extension of railway communications in the district of Rajshahi has been referred to the Government of India in the Railway Department (Railway Board) and their decision in the matter is awaited."

The Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI asked the following supplementary question :—

Is it not possible to utilise the existing line between Sara and Ishurdi for passenger traffic, while the goods traffic is already going on?

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

"I would ask for notice of that question."

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

Direct communication between Pabna and the northern districts of Rajshahi.

III. (*a*) Are the Government aware that great inconvenience is being felt by the public on account of the absence of direct communication between Pabna and the northern districts of the Rajshahi Division, owing to the discontinuance of the steamer-service between Damukdia and Pabna, caused by the decision not to permit the construction of a steamer-station at Paksi by the India General Steam Navigation and Railway Company?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of assisting the District Board of Pabna in the construction of a light railway between Pabna and Ishurdi or in completing the metalling of the remaining four miles of the road from Pabna to Ishurdi?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) The discontinuance of the steamer service in question undoubtedly causes inconvenience to the public; but, as explained in reply to another question of the Hon'ble Member, it is not a fact that permission has been refused to the construction of a steamer station at Paksi.

(*b*) The reply is in the negative."

The Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI asked the following supplementary question :—

Is it not a fact that a line has already been sanctioned which will pass through Pabna, and, if so, is there any chance of its being finished in the near future?

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

"I would ask for notice of this question also."

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

Fares on the Eastern Bengal Railway over the Hardinge Bridge.

IV. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway, in accordance with their time-table, reckon the distance between Calcutta and Paksi for the purpose of fares as 138 miles?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the distance between Calcutta and Paksi for the purpose of the timing of the trains is reckoned as only 120 miles?

(*c*) Do the Railway authorities charge for the journey over the Hardinge Bridge a fare equivalent to a journey of 18 miles?

(*d*) If it is not a fact that the journey over the Hardinge Bridge is so charged for, will the Government be pleased to explain the reason for the discrepancy in the distances shown on the time-table?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. The extra charge represents a pontage charge on account of the Hardinge Bridge.

(*d*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply given to clause (*c*)."

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

Congestion in intermediate-class carriages on the Eastern Bengal Railway

V. (*a*) Are the Government aware that much inconvenience is being felt by the public owing to congestion in intermediate-class carriages on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of providing a larger number of these carriages for use by the public?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) No representations have been made to this Government on the subject.

(*b*) The authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway are aware that the intermediate class accommodation requires to be increased. Last year 17 bogie carriages with intermediate class accommodation were constructed and added to the line. The Railway authorities have, at present, under construction, 16 broad gauge bogie carriages with intermediate class accommodation. They have also included both broad and narrow gauge bogies with such accommodation in the programme of construction for next year. The programme has been submitted to the Railway Board for approval. Owing to the war the programme of carriage construction has been seriously curtailed during the last two years, otherwise a still greater increase in intermediate class accommodation would have been made."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Employment of Kanungos displaced owing to the suspension of settlement work.

VI. Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government for the employment of the Kanungos who have been thrown out of employment on account of the sudden suspension of settlement works?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR was laid on the table :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the statement which will be made to-day on behalf of Government in the debate on the resolution to be moved by the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq on the same subject."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Nomination of members to District and Local Boards.

VII. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Government have issued a circular to District Officers laying down instructions for the proper representation of the different communities on Municipalities, District and Local Boards, in making nominations for the appointment of members of such bodies ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the circular ?

(*c*) If the answer to clause (*a*) of the question be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether the nominations of members of the following Boards were made in accordance with such instructions, namely :—

(*i*) the District Boards of Burdwan and Howrah ;

(*ii*) the Asansol Local Board ;

(*iii*) the Howrah, Hughli-Chinsura, Serampore, Midnapore and Bankura Municipalities ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) A copy of this Government's Circular No. 2 T.—M., dated the 2nd August, 1912, is laid on the table.

(*c*) Appointments to District and Local Boards are made by Commissioners and nominations are not submitted to Government. In the case of the municipalities referred to, the principles laid down in the Government Circular were observed."

Circular referred to by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *in his answer to Question No. VII (unstarred), asked by the Hon'ble* MAULVI ABUL KASEM, *at the Council Meeting of the 7th August, 1912.*

Circular No. 2 T.—M., dated Dacca, the 2nd August 1912.

From—THE HON'BLE MR H. L. STEPHENSON, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

I AM directed to address you on the subject of the principles that should be adopted in submitting recommendations to Government for the appointment of municipal commissioners. One-third of the number of such commissioners are under the law to be appointed by Government and it is considered desirable that some indication should be given of the policy Government wish to adopt in making these nominations.

2. The object of retaining these nominations in the hands of Government is to enable them to correct possible inequalities in the operation of the elective system and to provide a necessary element of official experience in the corporation. The only difficulty that is likely to arise is with reference to what should be held to constitute an adequate representation of any particular community or interest and while recognising that circumstances must differ in particular localities and that therefore no hard and fast rule can be enforced, Government desire to indicate generally the criterion which may properly be used to guide the local officers in this matter.

3. For the sake of simplicity the most common case of a municipality inhabited practically entirely by Muhammadans and Hindus may be taken as an illustration. In order to form an opinion as to the proportional representation that each of these communities should rightly be given, statistics should

be compiled to show (1) population (*a*) Muhammadans (*b*) Hindus; (2) the number of voters (*a*) Muhammadans (*b*) Hindus; (3) the total rates paid by (*a*) Muhammadans (*b*) Hindus. These figures should be carefully considered by the local officer and, although it is not suggested that the tests thus provided are of equal value, they will serve to correct what might prove an erroneous view of the importance of one community or the other were the population test to be taken by itself. Having thus formed his view as to the proper portion of the representation to which each community is entitled, the local officer should use his nominations to correct any material variation from these proportions which may be shown by the results of the elections, after providing for the necessary element of official experience. After thus utilising his nominations in the first instance, the residue, if any, should be distributed by him among various communities or interests in the way that may appear to him to be most equitable.

4. The case of Local Boards and District Boards is somewhat different and the tests are not so easy to apply, but an endeavour should be made to follow the same principles in dealing with nominations to these bodies also.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

High schools.

VIII. Will the Government be pleased to state the district or districts in Bengal—

(*i*) where no Government High School exists;

(*ii*) in which there are more than one Government High School?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL was laid on the table :—

"A statement giving the required information is laid on the table."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL *in his answer to Question No. VIII (unstarred) asked by the Hon'ble* MAULVI ABUL KASEM *at the Council Meeting of the 7th August, 1916.*

VIII. (*i*) The following is a list of the districts in which no Government High School exists :—

(*i*) Burdwan.
(*ii*) Midnapur.

(*ii*) The following is a list of the districts in which there are more than one Government High School :—

(*i*) Hooghly (3).
(*ii*) 24-Parganas (3).
(*iii*) Calcutta (5).
(*iv*) Dacca (4).
(*v*) Bakarganj (4).
(*vi*) Mymensingh (3).
(*vii*) Chittagong (3)

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Mianji training schools.

IX. Will the Government be pleased to state the number of *Mianji* training schools established by Government in each district of the Presidency?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL was laid on the table :—

"A statement is laid on the table."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL *in his answer to Question No. IX (unstarred) asked by the Hon'ble* MAULVI ABUL KASEM, *at the Council Meeting of the 7th August, 1916.*

Statement showing the number of *Mianji* Training Schools established by Government in different districts of Bengal :—

District.	Number
Chittagong	1
Hooghly	1
Jessore	1
Khulna	1
Midnapore	1
24-Parganas	1

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Assistant Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education.

X. Will the Government be pleased to state the names, with their native districts, of the five Assistant Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL was laid on the table :—

"A statement is laid on the table."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL *in his answer to Question No. X (unstarred) asked by the Hon'ble* MAULVI ABUL KASEM, *at the Council Meeting of the 7th August, 1916, showing the names and districts of birth of the Assistant Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education.*

	Name		District of birth
1.	Maulvi Haji Badr-ud-din Ahmad	... ..	Calcutta.
2.	„ A. S. M. Azam	... ...	Do.
3.	„ Kazi Imdadul Huq	... ...	Khulna.
4.	„ Muhammad Moula Buksh	... ...	24-Parganas.
5.	„ Tasaddak Ahmad	... ...	Ditto.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Appointments held by Muhammadans in the listed service.

XI. Will the Government be pleased to state how many of the appointments which are ordinarily reserved for the Civil Service, but are listed as open to the Provincial Service, are now held by members of the Provincial Service, and to state how many of these are held by Muhammadans ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR was laid on the table :—

"All the eleven appointments which are ordinarily reserved for the Indian Civil Service, but are listed as open to the members of the Provincial Civil Service, are now held by members of the latter service. One of these appointments is held by a Muhammadan."

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM asked the following supplementary question :—

Is it not a fact that the Muhammadan Officer referred to in the answer is a member of the Assam Service ?"

The Hon'ble MR. KERR said :—

"It is a fact. The officer is serving in Assam, but he is on the Bengal Provincial Cadre."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Appointment held by Muhammadans in the Provincial Services etc.

XII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of appointments made in the following services since April, 1912, and how many of these are held by Muhammadans :—

(*i*) Provincial Executive Service ;

(*ii*) Provincial Judicial Service ;

(*iii*) Provincial Educational Service ;

(*iv*) Deputy Superintendents of Police ; and

(*v*) Superintendents of Excise ?

(*b*) In regard to the appointments held by Muhammadans, how many have been appointed from each Division of the Presidency ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR was laid on the table :—

"The information required by the Hon'ble Member is given in the statement which is laid on the table."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. KERR *in his reply to Question No. XII (unstarred) asked by the Hon'ble* MAULVI ABUL KASEM, *at the Council Meeting of the 7th August, 1916.*

Services.	Total number of appointments made since April, 1912	How many of the appointments in column 2 are held by Muhammadans	Number of Muhammadans appointed from each Division of the Presidency		Remarks.
1	2	3	4		5
(*i*) Provincial Executive Service	51	15	Presidency Division ...	2	
			Burdwan ,, ...	2	
			Dacca ,, ...	4	
			Chittagong ,, ...	3	
			Rajshahi ,, ...	4	
				15	
(*ii*) Provincial Judicial Service.	53	1	.....		The one Muhammadan appointed is a native of Assam
(*iii*) Provincial Educational Service	32	13	Presidency Division ...	6	Of the other two Muhammadans appointed, one is a native of Delhi, another of Meerut. In addition to these appointments an officiating appointment is held by a Muhammadan gentleman of Calcutta
			Burdwan ,, ...	2	
			Dacca ,, ...	1	
			Rajshahi ,, ...	2	
				—	
				11	
				—	
(*iv*) Deputy Superintendents of Police.	14	3	Burdwan Division ...	1	
			Dacca ,, ...	2	
				—	
				3	
				—	
(*v*) Superintendents of Excise	28	4	Dacca Division ...	2	No appointments were made before November, 1914
			Rajshahi ,, ...	2	
				—	
				4	
				—	

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA :—

Public Works Cess and District Boards.

XIII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total Public Works Cess receipts of each District Board in Bengal since the transfer of these receipts to the District Boards ?

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR:—*concluded.*

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state in a tabular form the percentage of the Public Works Cess Receipt spent by each District Board in Bengal on water-supply and rural sanitation since the transfer of those receipts to the District Boards?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps (if any) they are taking to urge the District Boards to increase their expenditure under these two heads?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table:—

"(*a*) & (*b*) A statement is laid on the table. District Boards have not been asked to keep any separate account of expenditure out of the grants made to them on the surrender of the public works cess. It is not therefore possible to state the percentage of the public works cess receipts spent on water-supply and rural sanitation. The total amount expended by each District Board in 1913-14 and 1914-15 on water-supply and sanitation (including drainage) are, however, shown in the statement, together with their percentages to the public works cess receipts. Figures for 1915-16 are not yet available.

(*c*) A copy of this Government Circular No. 2319-23 L.S.-G., dated 25th September, 1915, is laid on the table, together with a copy of this Government Circular No. 388-92 M., dated the 7th February 1914."

Circulars referred to by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *in his answer to Question No. XIII (unstarred) asked by the* Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR *at the Council Meeting of the 7th August, 1916.*

No. 2319-23 L.S.-G., dated Calcutta, the 25th September, 1915.

From—THE HON'BLE MR. K. C. DE, C.I.E., I.C.S., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, Municipal Department,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

I AM directed to refer to Government order No. 980 T.—M., dated the 3rd November, 1913, addressed to the Accountant-General, Bengal, a copy of which was forwarded to you with memorandum Nos. 981-85 T.—M., dated the 3rd November, 1913. It was intimated in this letter that the public works cess for the year 1913-14 should be given to District Boards unconditionally, but that the question whether conditions would be imposed in future years or not was under the consideration of Government. Subsequently in Mr. Samman's letter Nos. 388-92 M., dated the 7th February, 1914, to your address, it was stated that His Excellency in Council desired to impress upon the District Boards the importance of setting apart a substantial sum out of the income enhanced by the surrender of the public works cess for the sanitation of villages and small towns, for the improvement of water-supply and for anti-malarial operations.

2. It has been the consistent policy of Government to reserve to itself the powers of ear-marking a portion of the public works cess for the improvement of the water-supply and similar objects. Accordingly in the Bill which was drafted to amend the Bengal Cess Act in order to give legal effect to the localization of the public works cess, Government reserved to itself the power of making rules to prescribe the objects on which this cess should be spent and the manner and proportion in which this expenditure should be distributed. The amendment of the Cess Act has, however, been held in abeyance, pending the consideration of the recommendations of the District Administration Committee. In the meantime the Governor in Council desires to draw the attention of District Boards to the recommendation of that Committee for the utilization of the public works cess in financing unions under the Local Self-Government Act, and to warn them against any

increase in establishment or other recurring expenditure which may absorb a large part of the additional income.

3. With regard to the expenditure of the current year in view of the distress in rural area caused by heavy floods and the decline in the price of jute, the Governor in Council desires to impress upon all District Boards the desirability of spending large sums of money in the excavation of tanks in rural areas. The comparative cheapness of labour should make it possible for a much needed improvement in this respect to be effected at a minimum of cost, while under systematic control such works should go far to relieve local distress by affording employment for the labouring classes in want. With this object attention should be paid to the employment, as far as possible, of local rather than imported labour. Wherever the condition of the locality requires, the rule insisting on the contribution of a third of the cost of works on water-supply should be relaxed. In the opinion of His Excellency, this enterprise will afford suitable opportunity to District Boards for the proper utilization of their surplus balances and the additional resources placed at their disposal.

4. I am accordingly to request that the attention of the District Boards in your division may be drawn to this important matter at an early date.

No. 388-92 M., dated Calcutta, the 7th February, 1914.

From—THE HON'BLE MR. H. F. SAMMAN, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department,

To—The Commissioners of the Dacca, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Presidency and Burdwan Divisions.

I AM directed to refer to Government order No. 980 T—M., dated the 3rd November, 1913, addressed to the Accountant-General, Bengal, copy of which was forwarded to you with memorandum Nos. 981-85 M., dated the 3rd November, 1913. It was stated therein that Government had decided to surrender the public works cess to District Boards unconditionally for the present year. In coming to this decision the Governor in Council was influenced by the consideration that District Boards are in an exceptional position to gauge local requirements, and to determine accordingly to what specific purpose this addition to their income can most profitably be devoted. While leaving the District Boards a free hand in the expenditure of this income for the current year, His Excellency in Council desires to impress upon them the importance of setting apart a substantial sum for the sanitation of villages and small towns, for the improvement of water-supply and for anti-malarial measures.

2. Instructions have already issued regarding the measures to be taken for providing a pure water-supply in the interior. The question to which I am to invite special attention at the present time is the prevention of malaria. The value of quinine as a remedy for this disease has been abundantly proved, but the efficacy of the drug is largely dependent on the adequacy of the quantities in which it is administered. The attention of Government has been directed to the fact that the average quantity of quinine administered to each patient in District Board dispensaries falls far short of the minimum necessary for effective treatment. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals has now issued instructions to all Civil Surgeons to see that in future adequate quantities of quinine are given in all cases of malaria. Compliance with these instructions will involve considerable additional expenditure. This is a legitimate charge upon District Boards and should be met without difficulty out of their increased resources. The wide prevalence of malaria in this Presidency and its baneful effects on the people have long been recognized, and the importance of taking adequate measures for the prevention and cure of this disease cannot be overestimated. The Governor in Council trusts that District Boards will realize the pressing necessity of bringing within the reach of the people a mode of treatment pronounced to be effective after continued research by competent persons

3. I am to request that you will communicate the wishes of Government in this matter to all District Boards within your division. A copy of the

Circular No. 31, dated 20th August, 1913, issued by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals to all Civil Surgeons, is appended.

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *in his answer to Question No. XIII (unstarred) asked by the Hon'ble* RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR, *at the Council Meeting of the 7th August, 1916.*

DISTRICT BOARDS.	1913-14.					1914-15.				
	Total net Public Works Cess, 1913-14.	WATER-SUPPLY.		OTHER SANITATION CHARGES, INCLUDING DRAINAGE.		Total net Public Works Cess, 1914-15.	WATER-SUPPLY.		OTHER SANITATION CHARGES, INCLUDING DRAINAGE.	
		Amount.	Percentage of column 3 over column 2.	Amount.	Percentage of column 5 over column 2.		Amount.	Percentage of column 8 over column 7.	Amount.	Percentage of column 10 over column 7.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.		Rs	Rs		Rs.	
Burdwan ...	2,00,854	8,146	4·0	1,931	·9	2,62,720	Nil	Nil	27,163	10·3
Birbhum ...	82,294	20,517	24·9	10,121	12·3	78,285	15,726	20·1	7,731	9·9
Bankura ...	55,921	5,953	10·6	65	·1	57,977	5,994	10·3	1,017	1·7
Midnapore ...	2,00,802	51,964	25·8	28,681	14 2	2,02,516	24,128	11·9	20,547	10·1
Hooghly ...	1,09,242	6,914	6 3	5,190	5·0	1,05,820	13,519	12·8	4,946	4·7
Howrah ...	54,621	3,400	6·2	1,769	3·2	52,910	15,033	28·4	3,096	5·8
24-Parganas ...	1,72,744	6,862	4·0	1,552	·9	2.14,402	26,556	12·4	12,352	5·8
Nadia ...	89,301	10,684	12·0	2,127	2·4	81,732	19,023	23·3	9,865	12 1
Murshidabad ...	90,515	6,591	7·3	764	·8	83,677	17,389	20 8	3,848	4·6
Khulna ...	1,14,134	23,257	20·4	4,876	4·3	1,12,178	23,115	20·6	3,269	2 9
Jessore ...	65,809	11,517	17·5	3,895	5·9	1,04,321	28,152	27 0	3,321	3·2
Dacca ...	1,20,236	33,754	28 0	360	·3	1,30,958	70,271	53·6	618	·47
Mymensingh ...	2,77,116	25,448	9 2	5,340	2·0	2,48,841	32,186	13·0	4,059	1·6
Faridpur ...	80,657	31,807	39·4	1,055	1·3	92,795	37,627	40·5	3,228	3 5
Bakarganj ...	2,21,189	17,218	8·0	6,469	2·9	2,16,267	33,187	15·3	4,007	1·9
Chittagong ...	1,29,630	14,645	11·3	80	·06	1,21,495	42,433	34·9	782	·6
Tippera ...	1,30,358	23,349	18·0	15,916	12 2	1,23,899	42,239	34·1	25,733	20·8
Noakhali ...	1,07,428	3,679	3·4	5,761	5·3	1,10,861	48,362	43·6	14,163	12·7
Rajshahi ...	1,04,783	8,593	8 2	3,854	3 7	1,03,591	22,022	21·2	4,959	4·8
Dinajpur ...	1,02,486	5,870	5·7	990	·9	1,02,445	8,721	8·5	1,197	1·1
Jalpaiguri ...	81,659	5,288	6·4	244	·3	83,399	6,546	7·8	Nil	Nil
Rangpur ...	1,68,489	14,908	8·8	5,802	3 4	1,62,003	17,512	10·8	7,369	4·5
Bogra ...	65,156	22,912	35·1	20	·03	62,431	27 737	44·4	809	1·3
Pabna ...	82,367	2,612	3·2	75	·09	79,825	19,757	24·8	378	·5
Malda ...	56,043	5,300	9 4	248	4	53,800	9,345	17·3	5,349	10 0

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Supplementary list of registered medical practitioners

XIV. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a supplementary list containing the names, qualifications and addresses of those "legally-qualified medical practitioners" whose names have been registered by the Bengal Council of Medical Registration, but do not appear in the Annual Medical List of 1915-16?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"Government are not in possession of a list of the names, qualifications and addresses of those legally qualified practitioners whose names have been registered by the Bengal Council of Medical Registration since the publication of the Annual Medical List of 1915-16."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Publication of the names of duly-qualified medical practitioners in Bengal.

XV. Are the Government considering the desirability of publishing the names of "duly-qualified medical practitioners" in the *Calcutta Gazette* from time to time for the information of the public, after their names have been duly registered by the Bengal Council of Medical Registration?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"The answer is in the negative."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

XVI. Are the Government considering the desirability of publishing the list of Registered Medical Practitioners from time to time at principal local places such as hospitals, charitable dispensaries, Municipal, District and Local Board offices, thanas, railway stations, post offices, etc. ?

Publication of the list of registered medical practitioners at principal local places.

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"The answer is in the negative."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

XVII. Will the Government be pleased to state—

Number of Intermediate passed students for 1916 and their admission to colleges.

(*i*) the total number of students who passed the last Intermediate Arts and Science Examinations in Bengal ;

(*ii*) how many of them applied for admission to the third-year classes ;

(*iii*) how many of them have been admitted, and to which colleges ;

(*iv*) how many of them have been refused admission and to which colleges ; and

(*v*) the total number of students who have been refused admission, and the reasons for such refusal in each case ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL was laid on the table :—

"(*i*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 31st May, 1916 and the 7th June, 1916.

(*ii*) (*iii*), (*iv*) & (*v*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to his Question No. XVIII (*ii*), (*iii*) and (*iv*)."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

XVIII. Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing—

Number of matriculates in Bengal for 1916 and their admission to colleges.

(*i*) the total number of boys who passed the last Matriculation Examination in Bengal ;

(*ii*) how many of them applied for admission to the Intermediate Arts and how many for admission into the Intermediate Science classes, and in what colleges ;

(*iii*) how many of them have been admitted and to which colleges ; and how many (if any) have been refused admission and to which colleges ; and

(*iv*) the total number of boys who have been refused admission, and the reasons for such refusal in each case ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL was laid on the table :—

"(*i*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the list published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 7th June, 1916.

(*ii*), (*iii*) & (*iv*) Government are not in possession of this information, and are not in a position to require all the colleges concerned to submit it."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Applications for admission into medical institutions.

XIX. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of applications received for admission into the Calcutta Medical College, the Calcutta Campbell Medical School and the Dacca Medical School for each year during the last five years (1912-1916);

(*ii*) the number of students admitted into and refused admission to these institutions each year during the said period;

(*iii*) the reason for refusing admission in each case;

(*iv*) the number of applications received for admission into the Belgachia Medical School (now College) for each year during the last five years (1912-1916);

(*v*) the number of students admitted into and refused admission to the said institution each year during the same period; and

(*vi*) the reason for refusing admission in each case?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"(*i*) & (*ii*) The following statement gives the number of applications for admission, and the number of admissions, to the Medical College, the Campbell Medical School and the Dacca Medical School during the last five years :—

	Medical College.		Campbell Medical School.		Dacca Medical School.	
	Applications.	Admissions	Applications.	Admissions	Applications.	Admissions
1912 ...	544	153	...*	114	195	52
1913 ...	581	151	...*	131	128	57
1914 ...	702	154	...*	120	215	106
1915 ...	720	162	434	115	192	78
1916 ...	725	167	407	122	179	77

* Not available.

(*iii*) Selection for admission rests with the Principal of the College and the Superintendents of the Schools. No reasons for refusing admission are recorded. The general principle followed is selection according to merit on the results of the University Examinations.

(*iv*), (*v*) & (*vi*) The Hon'ble Member may obtain the information he asks for by applying to the authorities of the Belgachia Medical College."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Travelling charges of the touring officers of the office of the Director of Agriculture.

XX. Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of travelling charges incurred during the last year by the touring officers of the office of the Director of Agriculture?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR was laid on the table :—

"The total amount is Rs. 80,783."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

High English schools at Pirojpur, Bhola, Jhalakati and Jamalpur.

XXI. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is a proposal for handing over the High English Schools at Pirojpur, Bhola, Jhalakati and Jamalpur (Mymensingh) to private management?

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ—*concluded.*

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this step?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a similar step is being taken in regard to any other school, and, if so, which?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL was laid on the table —

"(*a*) & (*b*) The question, whether the schools referred to by the Hon'ble Member, which were taken over temporarily by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, should continue to be under Government management or should be placed under private management is under the consideration of Government."

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Award of free-studentships to Muhammadan students in high schools.

XXII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any circular order has been issued modifying the existing rules as to the award of free-studentships to Muhammadan students in high schools?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to explain the modification sought to be introduced?

(*c*) If the result of the modification is to limit the number of awards to Muhammadan students, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the modification?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) Revised rules for the award of free-studentships were issued by this Government in February, 1916.

(*b*) & (*c*) There were formerly two sets of rules for West and East Bengal. The rules for West Bengal (as amended in 1911) laid down that the number of free-studentships should not exceed 5 per cent. of a school's enrolment, and Muhammadan pupils were eligible for the free-studentships permissible under this scale. It was also provided that additional free-studentships might be awarded to Muhammadans at the rate of 8 per cent. of the Muhammadan pupils of a school subject to the proviso that not more than 12 free-studentships should be awarded to the Muhammadan pupils in any one school. In Eastern Bengal the previous rules laid down that free-studentships might be awarded to non-Muhammadans at the rate of 5 per cent. of the total school enrolment and to Muhammadans at the rate of 8 per cent. of the total number of pupils on the school rolls. Under the revised rules issued in February, 1916 free-studentships may be awarded to non-Muhammadans at the rate of 5 per cent. of the number of non-Muhammadan pupils in a school and to Muhammadans at the rate of 8 per cent. of the enrolment of Muhammadan pupils, and there is no limitation of the total number which may be awarded to Muhammadans as was the case in the previous West Bengal rules. The revised rules have not yet been brought into force, free-studentships awarded under the previous rules being still held by boys attending the schools. The question whether effect shall be given to the revised rules in their present form is now under the consideration of Government."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Travelling charges of the touring officers of the Department of Education.

XXIII. Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of travelling charges incurred during the last year by the touring officers of the Department of Education?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL was laid on the table :—

"The total expenditure incurred during 1915-16 on account of the travelling allowance of touring officers of the Education Department was Rs. 69,245-4-9."

By the Hon'ble MR. PRAVASH CHANDRA MITRA :—

New Union Committees in Bengal.

XXIV. Will the Government be pleased to state how many new Union Committees have been started during the year 1915-16 and in what places ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD was laid on the table :—

"A statement is laid on the table showing the number (85) of Union Committees established during the year and the places at which they were established."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *in his answer to Question No. XXIV (unstarred) asked by the* Hon'ble MR. PRAVASH CHANDRA MITRA, *at the Council Meeting of the 7th August, 1916.*

District.	Thana	Name of Union Committee	District	Thana	Name of Union Committee
Bankura ...	Gangajalghati ...	Pakhanna.	Dacca—*concld.*	Munshiganj ...	Mirkadim.
	Sonamukhi ...	Palashdanga		Ditto ...	Bajrajogini.
				Ditto ...	Char Kewar.
Hooghly ...	Chanditola ...	Sheakhala		Ditto ...	Hasail.
	Balagarh ...	Guptipara.		Ditto ...	Baherak.
	Haripal ...	Haripal.		Ditto ...	Char Sirai.
				Ditto ...	Bayra
Birbhum ...	Rampur Hât ...	Bistapur.		Harirampur ...	Balla
	Nalhati ...	Nalhati.			
			Faridpur ...	Sibchar ...	Sibchar.
Dacca ...	Munshiganj ...	Munshiganj.		Palong ...	Palong.
	Manikganj ...	Manikganj.		Bhanga ...	Bhanga
	Ditto ...	Hatopara		Baliakandi ...	Baliakandi
	Ditto ...	Saturia.		Ditto ...	Jamalpur.
	Ditto ...	Garpara		Ditto ...	Dakhinbari
	Keraniganj ...	Subhandya		Bhushna ...	Bhushna.
	Ditto ...	Kalatia		Pangsa ...	Meghna.
	Ditto ...	Mirpur		Do. ...	Pangsa.
	Ditto ...	Teghuria.		Madaripur.	Rajoir.
	Nawabganj ...	Nawabganj.		Goalundo.	Rajbari.
	Kapasia ...	Sripur.			
	Do. ...	Jinardi.	Rangpur ...	Kotwali ...	Sadyapuskarni.
	Do. ...	Kaliganj.		Gobindaganj ...	Gobindaganj.
	Sublim ...	Dhamrai		Ditto ...	Mahimganj.
	Do. ...	Tetuljhora.		Sundarganj ...	Haripur.
	Raipura ...	Moheshpur.		Chilmari ...	Chilmari.
	Do. ...	Lemutala.		Gaibandha ...	Gaibandha.
	Rupganj ...	Panchdona.		Badarganj ...	Gopalpur.
	Narayanganj ...	Fatulla.		Ditto ...	Badarganj.
	Ditto ...	Amirpur.		Ulipur ...	Ulipur.
	Srinagar ...	Shekharnagar.		Kaliganj ...	Bhotemari.
	Do. ...	Rajanagar-Saidpur.		Nilphamari ...	Nilphamari.
	Do. ...	Rasuna.		Dimla ...	Dimla.
	Do. ...	Ichhapura.		Domar ...	Domar.
	Do. ...	Hasara.		Kishorganj ...	Kishorganj.
	Do. ...	Birtara.		Kurigram ...	Kurigram.
	Do. ...	Srinagar.			
	Do. ...	Syamsiddhi.	Bogra ...	Adamdighi ...	Dupchanchia.
	Do. ...	Bhagyakul.		Ditto ...	Santahar.
	Do. ...	Sholaghar.		Panchbibi ...	Jaipurhat.
	Munshiganj ...	Haldia.		Ditto ...	Hilli.
	Ditto ...	Betka.		Sariakandi ...	Sonatola.
	Ditto ...	Abdullapur.		Ditto ...	Chandanbaisa.
	Ditto ...	Autsahi.			
	Ditto ...	Dhpur.	Tippera ...	Hajiganj ...	Hajiganj.
	Ditto ...	Kalma.		Do. ...	Gandharbapur.

NOTE.—Union Committees in the Dacca district, with the exception of those at Munshiganj and Manikganj, were sanctioned on the 11th March, 1916, with effect from 1st April, 1916.

The Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill, 1916.

Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda ; Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

XXV. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table information on the following points :—

(*a*) the number of political crimes that have taken place in Bengal up to the end of July 1916 ;

(*b*) the names of the accused in each case, together with their native district ;

(*c*) whether the accused were tried in any court or courts of law, and if so, with what result ?

The following answer by the Hon'ble Mr. KERR was laid on the table :—

"(*a*) The number of cases believed by the Police to be connected with the revolutionary movement, which have occurred during the period from 1905 to the end of July, 1916, is 546.

(*b*) & (*c*) The information required is being collected and will be furnished at a subsequent meeting."

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

THE CALCUTTA HACKNEY-CARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1916.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 3.

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill, 1916, and moved that the said Report be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 4.

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda moved that the Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill, 1916, be not further proceeded with.

He said :—

"My Lord, a copy of the report of the Select Committee has been furnished to each Hon'ble Member. The reasons for their recommendation are given in that report to which I have nothing to add."

RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, I ask your Excellency's permission to make a few general observations on the motion. The provisions of the Hackney-carriage Act have been extended to a few towns in the mufassal. My submission is that the two Acts, the Bengal Municipal Act and the Calcutta Hackney-carriage Act, be taken together for amendment. The definition of the word "Carriage" in the Bengal Municipal Act is defective. So also the definition of the words "Hackney-carriage" in the Hackney-carriage Act. Can the commissioners in a mufassal municipality recover fees for motors and cycles which are used in the mufassal towns ? The Madras High Court held that a cycle comes under the definition of "Carriage". With all respect to the views of the Judges of the Madras High Court, I submit that a cycle does not come under the

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur; Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar; the President; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur; Mr. Eden.

The Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR—*concluded.*

definition of the word "Carriage". The chapter on "Registration of Carts" ought to be excluded from the Bengal Municipal Act, and incorporated in the Hackney-carriage Act. There is no definition of the word "Cart" in the Hackney-carriage Act, but there is one in the Bengal Municipal Act which is not elastic. My submission is that, if the Hackney-carriage Act be amended and modified hereafter, the provision of the three Acts—the Calcutta Municipal Act, the Bengal Municipal Act and the Hackney-carriage Act—be taken into consideration by the Council.

These are items which I submit demand the consideration of the Council. There should be a harmony between the Municipal Acts and the Hackney-carriage Act. There should be a harmony also in the several sections of the Act dealing with hackney-carriages. I refer to sections 31 and 44 of the Act. I take this opportunity to discuss these matters that in future when the Hackney-carriage Act be amended the Council may notice them."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, I beg to support the Hon'ble Mover of the Bill in his motion that the Bill be not proceeded with at present.

There is, however, one matter to which I wish to draw attention. There should be some provision in the Bill which will enable an owner or driver of a hackney-carriage to appeal against the order of the Registering Officer. The Registering Officer under the Calcutta Hackney-carriage Act has got extensive powers over the owners and drivers of hackney-carriages. I cordially associate myself with the Hon'ble Mover in the desirability of the improvement of hackney-carriages; but, from my experience as a Municipal commissioner, extending over many years, I have found that large powers are vested in the Registering Officer without any appeal to any one. No doubt, in some cases, the Chairman has the right to revise the order of a subordinate officer; but it is not possible for the Chairman to look into every detail. In many cases the complaints are not heard. Sometimes serious charges are brought against the Registering Officer and it has been found that in some cases there might have been some grounds for complaint. Therefore, my Lord, I think that when this Act is being recast entirely, some provisions should be inserted in the Bill to enable any aggrieved person to submit an appeal to the bench of commissioners. The insertion of such a provision will make the Registering Officer more careful, for his action will be liable to be challenged before a proper authority."

The Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAJUMDAR said :—

"My Lord, I rise to a point of order. The proposal of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill is that the Bill be not proceeded with. I do not think that the Hon'ble Member is in order in discussing these matters at this stage."

His Excellency, the PRESIDENT, said :—

"I am afraid that I could not exactly catch what the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur has been saying, but if he has been discussing the principles of the Bill, or if he is suggesting new points for consideration when the Act comes under general amendment, I think he is quite in order."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, I do not wish to transgress the rules of the Council, but I may say that I believe I am quite in order in making these observations. As the whole Bill is being recast, I deemed it my duty to suggest the insertion of a provision for appeal."

The Hon'ble MR. EDEN said :—

"My Lord, I concur with the recommendation of the Select Committee on the Calcutta Hackney-carriage (Amendment) Bill, 1916, and with the

motion of the Hon'ble Member in charge of this Bill, that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

When this Amending Bill came before this Council a month ago, my feeling was that the City of Calcutta had outgrown the provisions of the Calcutta Hackney-carriage Act of 1891 and that greater alterations in the existing Act were required to deal with the present-day condition of the hackney-carriage service than could be given effect to in an Amending Bill.

But I considered that for many years past the Calcutta Corporation had been pleading for the additional powers and more effective control which it was proposed to give them by this Amending Bill, and I hoped that, if this Bill was passed into Law, that it would serve as a temporary expedient until something greater and more complete could be brought forward which would deal with the matter not only as it exists at the present day but as it may be expected to exist in the near future.

The Hon'ble Member in charge of this Bill has not told us this morning when the new Consolidating Bill referred to in the Report of the Select Committee is to be brought forward, but I have been informed and I have read in the newspapers that a new Bill is to be prepared at once, and that it is intended to bring it before this Council during the cold-weather session.

It is now three years, my Lord, since the draft of this Amending Bill was submitted to the Corporation of Calcutta for their opinion and criticism; but it is 10 years since the Corporation first began to move in the matter and to press for the greater powers it was intended to give them under this Amending Bill, and, in view of the long time it has taken to bring this Amending Bill before this Council, I may be permitted to doubt whether it is possible to adequately deal with the larger measure in so short a time as I have mentioned.

I wish now to recommend that, when a new Bill to deal with the hackney-carriage service is taken up, the desirability of enlarging its scope by consolidating under one Bill the whole of the vehicular traffic of Calcutta may be considered.

The introduction of the motor taxi-cab has already had an effect on the horse-drawn ticca gharry service; the first- and second-class ticca gharry is gradually giving way to the more modern taxi-cab and in course of time I confidently expect to see even the third-class gharry (with its special fare arrangements for carrying a number of passengers at so much a head, and which fills a very important requirement for certain classes of the people) give way to a form of motor-carriage plying for hire on similar terms: and I do not think there can be any doubt that in course of time the motor-lorry will, to a considerable extent, supersede the bullock-cart.

I have only touched very lightly on this matter on this occasion. But I take the opportunity of expressing an opinion which is held by many who are greatly interested in preserving and increasing the amenities of the City of Calcutta (in any consideration of which the question of an adequate and suitable service of public conveyance plying for hire must be looked upon as a matter of much importance) that it is very desirable that the whole of the hackney-carriage services of Calcutta, whether horse-drawn or mechanically-propelled, and including the bullock-cart, the motor-lorry, the palanquin and the rickshaw should be placed under one controlling authority, and I hope, my Lord, that when framing the new Bill this matter may be taken into consideration."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, as I have already stated, the reasons for this motion are given in the report of the Select Committee. But I have been asked to state when the Consolidating Bill is likely to come before the Council. As regards that, I may state that the whole of the Act was considered by the Select Committee and a large number of suggestions were made for improving the existing provisions, but it was found that if effect were to be given to them, it would be necessary to refer the Bill again to the Government of

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA:—*concld.*

India. The Select Committee thought that it would be better if, instead of going up to the Government of India with a few more suggestions for amendment, the whole Bill were recast and a Consolidating Bill framed. The Legislative Secretary undertook to take this up almost immediately, and when this is done it would perhaps be possible to present the Bill before the Council in November next. The question of a Consolidating Bill was discussed many years ago and the concensus of opinion was in its favour. An objection was then taken by the Legislative Department that as the new Municipal Bill was likely to be presented in Council shortly, and as the language of the Calcutta Hackney-carriage Act was taken from the Municipal Act which was going to be repealed soon, it was undesirable to have a Consolidating Bill, the language of which would be thrown out of gear when the new Municipal Bill was passed into law. It was solely on account of this objection that instead of a Consolidating Bill we took up the Amending Bill. I, however, think that it will not be impossible to frame a Consolidating Bill safeguarding against the objection taken by the Legislative Department and the difficulties which, it was anticipated, would arise when the new Municipal Bill was passed. For these reasons and for the reasons which are stated in the report of the Select Committee it has been thought desirable to drop the Amending Bill. One of the points, for instance, discussed by the Select Committee was whether the rickshaws would not be brought under the Act. This was altogether a new matter and various other suggestions of the same kind were also considered by the Select Committee, and it was decided not to proceed with the Amending Bill. I have no doubt that all these changes will take some time, but we thought that it would have taken equally long time if we proceeded with the Amending Bill instead of a Consolidating Bill.

As regards the various suggestions which have been made, including those regarding the inclusion of motor-cars and bullock-carts in the Act, also so far as motor-cars are concerned, they are governed by a different Act, and the question of bringing them under the Calcutta Hackney-carriage Act, I confess, has not been considered. Now that the proposal has been made, we will see whether it would be possible to do so. It was decided after consultation with the authorities concerned that the hackney-carriage traffic should continue to be regulated by the Calcutta Municipality, whereas the regulation of motor-cars rests with the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta. Whether it would be desirable to bring both under the same control is a question which, having regard to all that has been said, will be considered before the Consolidating Bill is placed before the Council.

There are various other suggestions made by Hon'ble Members. As regards these, I may say that many of them do not arise immediately on my motion; but I will give this assurance to my Hon'ble friends that all they have said will be taken into consideration and, if desirable, will be incorporated in the Consolidating Bill when it is drafted.

One point, which was considered of very great importance and which more than any other led to the dropping of the Bill, was the question of separate registration for horses and carriages. It was pointed out that, although carriages and horses were registered together, a practice had grown up, and it was quite a harmless practice, for one person to own a carriage and for another person to own the horses. Besides, same horses were not always harnessed to the same carriage. It was thought that, if we insisted on having the same registration for carriages and horses, it would lead to very grave inconvenience and it was considerd more convenient that horses and carriages should be passed separately. This argument was pressed on us very strongly and it was thought that this was a suggestion well worthy of being adopted. On this ground also we decided on dropping the Amending Bill."

The motion was put and agreed to.

Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.

RESOLUTIONS

Under the Rules for the Discussion of Matters of General Public Interest.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 5.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ moved the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that a section in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and also Vernacular Survey classes, be re-opened in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering.

He said :—

"My Lord, it was only about a year ago that the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Chaudhury and myself drew the attention of the Government to the question raised in this resolution by interpellations and also by observations in the course of the last Budget debate in Calcutta. The statements made by various members of your Excellency's Government have since been very carefully considered by leading men in Eastern Bengal, and I do not think I use the language of exaggeration when I say that there is a growing feeling of dissatisfaction at the action that was taken in removing the Survey classes from Dacca and in abolishing the Electrical and Mechanical classes attached to the School of Engineering, which, to say the least, has deprived this city of two of its most useful educational institutions. It is therefore in deference to a very widespread public feeling that I bring up this resolution this morning for the consideration of the Council, and I can assure your Excellency's Government that the recommendation urged by this resolution has the full support, not merely of the citizens of Dacca, but also of every leading man of Eastern Bengal.

My Lord, the resolution divides itself into two parts and, for the convenience of discussion, I will have to take up the two portions separately. I will begin with the one regarding the Survey classes.

The Survey School at Dacca was established in 1877, along with similar schools at Cuttack and Patna, in pursuance of a very generous policy which aimed at giving the people of Eastern Bengal some education in Survey. These institutions worked independently at first, and after about 17 years of useful work the Dacca Survey School was affiliated to the Sibpur Engineering College in the year 1894. The Dacca Survey School was then converted into an Engineering School and called the Ashanulla School of Engineering. In 1905, the Survey classes were attached to that School and continued to be so till the year 1914. It is unnecessary at the present moment to discuss the course of instructions that was given when the Survey classes were at Dacca. It will suffice for my purpose to say that the course of training that was given and the work that was done by the Survey classes had been most uniformly satisfactory. In 1914, the Survey classes were abolished or, to put the matter more correctly, they were transferred from Dacca to Mainamati in Comilla. In answer to a question that I put in Council on the 6th of March last, the Hon'ble Mr. De said that the reasons of this transfer were the want of adequate accommodation at Dacca and the advantages afforded by the new school at Comilla in point of site and facilities for training.

This was the answer that was then given, and it was supplemented by the observation made by the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon in the course of the Budget debate, when he practically repeated the reasons that were previously given by the Hon'ble Mr. De. We may therefore take it that these were the chief reasons which necessitated the transfer. In order to judge whether the recommendation made by my resolution for the re-opening of the Survey classes is justified or not, we will have to examine the reasons a little more carefully. The first reason that was given was the want of adequate accommodation at Dacca. In the course of the observations made by the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon, we were told that it was never the intention of the Government to

Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ—*continued.*

belittle the claims of Eastern Bengal and that a sum of five lakhs of rupees had been allotted for rendering the School of Engineering worthy of Dacca as the capital city of Eastern Bengal. No reference was made to the survey classes particularly. But I take it that out of the five lakhs allotted for the improvement of the School of Engineering a certain portion could easily be reserved for the Survey classes. And, if it could not be reserved out of that sum, it could at least have been reserved out of other allotments at the disposal of Government. It is well known that a great deal of expenditure has been incurred at Mainamati. Besides the capital expenditure, Government have to incur a recurring expenditure of several thousands of rupees a year.

So far as the financial aspect of the question is concerned, we are confronted with this fact that while, certainly according to their own statement, Government have made a saving of Rs. 2,600 under the capital head, they have to incur a recurring expenditure of about Rs. 16,000 a year. I confess I am not a financial expert, but I am not inclined to accept the proposition that it is financially advisible to save Rs. 2,600 at the expense of Rs. 16,000.

The next reason given by Government is as regards the difference in educational status between the Survey and the Engineering institutions. I think I can fairly say that so far as the question whether the Survey classes should exist side by side with the Engineering class is concerned, there is at least a difference of opinion between the experts. As to this part of the question I certainly speak subject to correction, because I have found opinions expressed to the contrary. But so far as the other classes are concerned, which were started simultaneously with the Survey class at Dacca, I mean the classes at Cuttack and Patna, they still continue to exist side by side with the Engineering College, and here also at Dacca they were so placed for the last 15 years, and I do not think that any educational experts, or those who are entitled to speak with authority on the question, had any reason to find fault with this system.

The third reason given by Government for the transfer was the advantage afforded in point of site and facility of training. So far as the advantage of site is concerned, it matters little whether the Survey classes are situated at Dacca or in the Lalmaihills. There are so many suitable sites in Dacca itself that Government could easily have chosen one if they were so minded. Leaving the point of site, I will deal with the question of efficiency necessitating the transfer. It was perhaps the intention of Government to give the boys in the new schools at Mainamati a course of training which would be better than what they used to receive at Dacca, and I have got it from one of the Government resolutions that one of the intentions was to fit the boys for employment in traverse survey. The transfer, therefore, whether it was advisable or not, must be judged by the results that have been obtained, and it will not take me long to convince your Excellency's Government that, judged by these results, the transfer has not certainly been justified. I find that a Committee was appointed, consisting of the Principal of the Sibpur Engineering College, the Director of Surveys and the Head Master of the Dacca School of Engineering, some time in 1914, to inquire into the Survey education in Bengal. They were asked to draw up a revised syllabus for Survey classes, to suggest the way in which the classes were to be held, to advise generally as to staff and other details and to make a proposal for periodical inspection and examinations.

The Government recorded a resolution on the Committee's report and it will serve my purpose for the present if I read two paragraphs of the Government Resolution. We read that the 'Committee's report was received during the year and is under the consideration of the Government. Several students from the Government Survey School at Mainamati near Comilla were provided with appointments in the Bengal traverse survey party in the cold weather of 1914-15.'

'The Governor in Council regrets to observe that their work was not always satisfactory and trusts that the Principal will be able to convince his

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ—*continued.*

students that the practical work in the field is the object for which they undergo training. With the improvements in methods of teaching lately introduced it is hoped that the School will ultimately be a reliable recruiting ground for traverse surveyors of the Department and will also be of use in the training of Collectorate kanungos.'

So that within a year of the transfer, Government themselves had recorded a condemnation by acknowledging that the work done by the students in that School had not always been satisfactory. In the report of the Bengal Survey by Major Hirst a similar remark is made, and I will read one sentence: 'A majority of the *ex*-students who have been given Government service were not a success.' This being the condition of things as regards the Mainamati School, it is necessary for us to see the kind of work that was done by the Dacca students and how far it compared with the work done by the Mainamati students. As far as I have been able to gather, the general consensus of opinion has been that the work done by the Dacca students had always been satisfactory; at any rate no adverse opinion has ever been recorded about them. I find also an expression of opinion by Captain Clayton in which he says that the work done by the students of the Dacca Survey classes was found to be first class, in fact he had never found any better. I only wish to refer in passing to the present teaching staff in Mainamati in order to convince your Excellency's Council that the step that has been taken has not only not been justified by the results but is not at all satisfactory. There are three teachers in that institution, including the Principal—I understand the latter does not do any teaching work. As regards the other two, the Head Master and the Second Master, they are both *ex*-students of the Dacca Survey School and before the creation of the Mainamati School they served as subordinate teachers elsewhere. I would not therefore wonder at the results of the Mainamati School. Secondly, I am informed that students with inferior initial qualifications are being admitted into the Mainamati School. It is therefore no wonder again that after they have received their training at the Mainamati School that, when they are turned out into the world, the work that they do happens to be of an inferior quality.

I have so far dealt with the reasons that have been given by Government for the transfer of the Survey classes from Dacca to Mainamati. As regards the want of a suitable site, I have already observed that that is an objection which cannot be raised, as suitable sites are easily obtainable here in Dacca as in Mainamati. As regards the financial aspect of the question, it is evident that far from resulting in economy, the Mainamati School has been extremely expensive and as regards the kind of work that is done by that school and the class of students that are turned out, it has been proved from the statistics of the last two years that the Mainamati students were much inferior to the students turned out from the Dacca Survey School. These observations show that this transfer has not been justified and has resulted in a serious inconvenience to the students both as regards the kind of education they receive and also as regards housing and other accommodation necessary for the students to attend the classes. In Dacca, there are many generously-disposed persons who used to give free boarding and lodging to the students. At Mainamati there is a residential institution which costs the students Rs. 12-8 each, and after they have spent all this money the employment which they can secure seldom gives them more than Rs. 25 a month. It may be an arguable point whether it is desirable to make education cheap, but so far as this preliminary survey education is concerned there is some advantage in giving rudimentary education in survey to persons who have not got the means to take advantage of the elaborate system of training in higher classes in engineering which necessitates a large expenditure of money. It is well known that, apart from the employment which these persons can get under Government, the big landowners and zamindars occasionally require

Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ—*continued.*

the services of amins, and it is under this large class of zamindars in Bengal that the Dacca students used to get employment and used to do a lot of useful work. I am informed that several students of the Dacca Survey School were employed by the Tata Steel Works at Bombay, and the work they did was very satisfactory which enabled them to secure more lucrative appointments there. Against this we have this fact that during the last three years the Mainamati School has turned out about 70 students, about 50 per cent. of whom have failed to secure any employment. The position therefore is this that, after spending Rs. 12-8 each per month, a large majority of students fail to secure any employment whatsoever, and if they do get any employment it enables them to earn a paltry sum of about Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 a month. I think, therefore, that I can fairly say that, judged by all tests, the transfer has not been justified and it is only but fair to this city and to Eastern Bengal that the Survey classes be re-opened in the Dacca School of Engineering. It may be said, as I was reminded by the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon, that Eastern Bengal has not been deprived of the Survey classes because they are still being held in one of the Eastern Bengal towns. It is quite true that Comilla has a claim to be reckoned as one of the important divisional centres and it is certainly an advantage to the people of the Chittagong Division if they have a Survey class at Comilla; but if Government ever accept the proposition that Survey classes are at all of any importance, if Government agree with the general popular view that some education of survey should be given in view of the persistent cry in this country for technical education, if Government agree in the main with the principle that, so far as possible, some sort of education should be given in surveying and engineering, I think the claims of any town in East Bengal should not be advanced at the sacrifice of the interests of Dacca. Dacca should have its Survey classes, and it will be all the more creditable to Government if they can open Survey classes in other important towns of East Bengal. Our objection is not that Comilla has got the Survey classes but that Dacca has been deprived of an educational institution which had been doing such useful work for more than a quarter of a century. Let us have a Survey class at Dacca and, if possible, let us have half a dozen more Survey classes for Eastern Bengal.

The second portion of my resolution refers to the re-opening of the School where mechanical and electrical engineering used to be taught in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering. The reason given in answer to a question put by me in the Council on 6th March last was that there was small demand for men with college qualifications in these subjects, and the existence at the Sibpur College of a much larger staff and better equipment for instruction.

My Lord, I am afraid that the mention of the existence of a similar college at Sibpur is likely to raise a sort of bitter controversy between East and West Bengal. I do not know if my Hon'ble friends from West Bengal will at all wish to press the claims of East Bengal in preference to those of West Bengal or whether they will pardon me when I plead the cause of Dacca, irrespective of the condition of things existing at the Sibpur College. There can be no doubt that the Sibpur College is an extremely efficient institution and has now attained such a state of excellence as can, with difficulty, be equalled by any new institution which could now be opened at Dacca. Attempts should be made not to abolish the classes at Dacca because there happen to be similar and better classes elsewhere. Attempts should be made to introduce improvements here so that students may have the alternative of either proceeding to Sibpur or continuing their studies here, as it may best suit them. It is well known that there are various disadvantages in the way of students of Eastern Bengal proceeding to West Bengal for the purpose of their education to any educational institution there. In the first place, Eastern Bengal is really so cut off from Western Bengal that the students from Eastern Bengal find it extremely inconvenient to leave their homes and pursue their studies under conditions which, to say the least, are

Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ—*concluded.*

somewhat dissimilar from Eastern Bengal conditions. I will not go into the details of this point, but it is a matter of common knowledge that parents and guardians, if they can find equal facilities or even slightly inferior facilities somewhere in Eastern Bengal, are hardly willing to send their sons for education to any institution in Western Bengal. I know, my Lord, that I have come to the end of the time allotted to me and, with these words, I beg to commend my resolution to the acceptance of the Council."

The Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY said :—

"My Lord, the motion which has been brought forward by my Hon'ble friend divides itself into two parts. In so far as it relates to the opening of classes in mechanical and electrical engineering at Dacca, everyone who has the cause of technical education at heart must be in sympathetic accord with the Hon'ble Mover. As has been pointed out, it is no new boon or concession that is being demanded of your Lordship's Government to-day. Classes in mechanical and electrical engineering, teaching up to the foreman mechanic standard, were opened in 1913 at Sibpur and Dacca simultaneously, in pursuance of a scheme for completely bifurcating the Civil and the Mechanical electrical courses from the 3rd-year class. Before this, students who were trained in a four years' course of Civil Engineering used to be given a thin veneer of electrical and mechanical training at the end of the period. The defects of this system, which turned out but indifferent mechanical and electrical engineers, were only too apparent. The new scheme was given effect to as a remedy, leading to the establishment of exclusive classes in electrical and mechanical subjects from the beginning of the 3rd-year class. But, my Lord, while the Sibpur classes are going on—though in the shape of a three-years' course—those at Dacca have been recently closed after an existence of barely two years. The reasons that were assigned for this step, in reply to certain questions in this Council, were the small demand for men with 'college qualifications' in these subjects, and the existence at the Sibpur College of a much larger staff and better equipment for instruction. The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon in his last Budget speech in a manner added two more grounds to this list, namely, that Government had discovered that the very large expenditure involved in the maintenance of this branch would be unwarranted at the present moment, and that the classes had not proved very popular.

It will be seen that many of these difficulties were not such as could not have been foreseen at an earlier stage. However that may be, let us examine these reasons and find out if they justify the abolition of the classes at Dacca. In regard to the question of demand, I am not quite clear as to the meaning of the term 'college qualifications,' for the classes that have been discontinued taught merely up to the foreman-mechanic standard

My Lord, the alleged insufficiency of demand in this line is not a new theme in our country. It came up for examination from time to time, and culminated in a special inquiry by Lieutenant-Colonel (now General) Atkinson and Mr. Dawson as to how technical institutions could be brought into closer touch and more practical relation with employers of labour. But nowhere will your Lordship find it stated that there is actually no field for employment of engineering labour in India. On the other hand, it is a matter of common knowledge that the railways and other engineering concerns in India do employ a large army of engineers of different grades; only the boys turned out by the Indian institutions do not seem to be quite favourites with the master-employers. Thirty years ago, Mr. Spring, in his note on the Sibpur College, stated that he knew as a fact that but few of the largest class of employers of such labour—Engineers-in-Chief and Managers of Railways—were even aware of the existence of the College. Much improvement has undoubtedly taken place in this matter since this was written. And now we have it on the authority of the Atkinson-Dawson report that the outlook for Indians is generally hopeful provided the necessity for preliminary practical training is fully realised. Our Hon'ble friend, Sir Rajendra Nath Mukerjea.

Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray.

The Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY—*continued.*

of whose presence here we are so very glad, stated on a recent occasion, 'I am confident that there is nothing inherent in our blood which permanently disqualifies us from becoming sound and practical engineers.' My Lord, there are people who suspect that the prejudice against Indian engineers may have been to a little extent tinged by racial bias. And some would even go to the length of thinking that Government have not done all that they could do to remove this handicap.

It is refreshing to turn from the gloomy official statements in Bengal to the inspiring address recently given to the students of the Roorkee College by the Hon'ble Mr. Wood, Chief Engineer of the United Provinces, in which he stated that the scope for engineers in India, no matter in which branch they have undergone their specialised training, is in the near future likely to be immense. In commenting upon this pronouncement, a leading Anglo-Indian daily has expressed itself in the following terms :—

'It is unlikely that many trained engineers will be forthcoming from Europe when the period of post-war reconstruction begins.' 'India', continues this journal, 'will find herself in large part dependent on her own resources, and if her new educated class makes the most of its opportunities and shows a greater inclination than at present to choose a practical form of occupation it should find abundant scope for its ambitions.'

As to whether there is a sufficient demand for boys who used to receive their training in the mechanical and electrical classes at Dacca, there seems to be some difference of opinion among the authorities themselves. I find that on this point the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon is contradicted by Principal Heaton who, at the last prize distribution at Sibpur—which was presided over by no less a personage than the Hon'ble Sir R. N. Mukerjea—stated that 'there is an increasing demand for students of the mechanical and electrical sides.'

From the report which Mr. Heaton presented on the occasion it appears that in the year 1915, though 23 candidates were at first admitted in the three years' course in mining, mechanical and electrical engineering in the apprentice department at Sibpur, only 9 were presented for the College examination at the end of the first year, of which 7 ultimately remained in the electrical and mechanical classes. When we remember that there were 4 boys in 1913 and 5 in 1914 in the first-year class at Dacca Sibpur does not appear to be in a position of much comparative advantage. If, however, the classes at Dacca are taken to have been unpopular, there may have been something in the scheme of studies to account for it. It is to be remembered that a new three-years course has been substituted at Sibpur since 1915 for the four-years standard which was brought into existence in 1913. And we have the statement of Mr. Heaton that if this three-years' course had not been started, the mechanical and electrical classes at Sibpur would be nearly empty.

So, if the old course has proved unpopular at Dacca it has proved equally, if not more, unpopular at Sibpur. And it would be doing bare justice to the institution at Dacca to let it have the benefit of the new system which has succeeded at Sibpur.

Coming to the quality of teaching at Dacca, if it is found to be not up to the mark, it certainly needs improvement. As it is, Government have acknowledged that the results shown in the electrical and mechanical departments at Dacca were satisfactory, considering the limitations in staff and equipment. I am fully conscious that improvement in the quality of education no doubt involves an increase in expenditure. If, as the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon says, the classes had to be discontinued because the large expenditure involved would be unwarranted at the present moment, I think they should be re-opened as soon as our finances are restored to equilibrium.

If, again, we are agreed as to the utility of these classes, why not find the wherewithal by retrenchments in other directions? And if we are in a real mood for effecting economies, we have only to turn our eyes to that

Mr. Rasul; Babu Surendra Nath Ray.

The Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY—*concluded.*

costly hobby of a school at the Mainamati Hill, which does not appear to have succeeded as an experiment. This brings me to the second part of the resolution. My Lord, I think that the Hon'ble Mover has made out a strong case for the re-opening of Survey classes at Dacca and the speedy abolition of the School at the Mainamati Hills. And I have no doubt the resolution, which has been so ably moved by my Hon'ble friend, will commend itself to the acceptance of the House."

The Hon'ble MR. RASUL said :—

"My Lord, the resolution as it stands would have had my full and entire support, but unfortunately my Hon'ble friend has made an indirect attack on the School at Mainamati in the district of Tippera. If my Hon'ble friend had confined himself to this resolution I do not think I should have inflicted a speech on the Council, but as a member representing the Chittagong Division and myself coming from the district of Tippera, I cannot but enter my protest against what my Hon'ble friend has said with regard to the School at Mainamati. The wording of the Resolution is that vernacular Survey classes be re-opened in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering. Be it so. Let us have classes at Dacca and let us have classes everywhere else, but I submit, my Hon'ble friend has not made out any case against the school already in existence now at Mainamati. And what are his reasons? As far as I could gather, one of his reasons was that students with very little qualifications are admitted to that School. Well, this is not the fault of Comilla or Mainamati, or if that is so, it must at once be remedied. His next reason is that 50 per cent. of the successful candidates there have failed to secure employment. That is a misfortune we all deplore, but I submit that that also does not go against the School there. My Hon'ble friend has also said that the School is expensive. Well, it may be so, but when the Government decided to transfer the School from here to Comilla, it was on the ground that they could get more extensive fields for work there. That was certainly a recommendation. Of course, during the last few years, the success has not been as great as the Government might have expected, but I submit that that is no reason why the School should be removed from there to Dacca or anywhere else. I therefore submit, let there be as many Survey schools as possible in East Bengal, but let the existing School also stand at Comilla. If my Hon'ble friend desires that the vernacular Survey classes at Comilla should be abolished there to be re-opened at Dacca, then I am against that part of his Resolution. So far as the other portion of the Resolution, I am in full sympathy with him. My Hon'ble friend has referred to the Sibpur College. I do not want to raise questions about the claims of East Bengal and West Bengal. It cannot be doubted that it is most expensive for East Bengal students to go to Sibpur from different parts of East Bengal to prosecute their studies in mechanical and electrical engineering. Therefore, if these classes are re-opened at Dacca, it will be a distinct boon to East Bengal. And in some future time, we may claim to get a full-fledged mechanical and electrical engineering college here. With these observations, and with the reservation mentioned by me, I support the resolution of my Hon'ble friend."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"My Lord, I should like to speak on the second part of the Resolution first, viz., the opening of the vernacular Survey classes in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering. I think my friend has done well in bringing forward this Resolution. I have been informed that the Survey school which has been opened at Tippera, admits only a limited number of students, that it is expensive to Government, it is out of the reach of students for whom it is intended, and that it has not altogether proved a satisfactory institution. In these days when there is cadastral survey going on all over the country,

Babu Surendra Nath Ray.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY—*continued.*

when record-of-rights has been initiated in several of the districts of this Presidency, we want men with some knowledge of surveying not only to assist the Settlement Officers but to guard the interests of both landlords and tenants. It is therefore necessary that facilities should be given to the people of this Presidency to have as many surveyors as possible. And it is not necessary to have a knowledge of the English language to make a competent surveyor, such surveyors as are required every day by zamindars and the public, though I must admit that a knowledge of the English language by a surveyor adds to his usefulness.

I shall now deal with the first part of this Resolution, viz., the re-opening of a section in mechanical and electrical engineering in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering. On receipt of the Resolution of my Hon'ble friend I went to the Sibpur Engineering College and was shewn over the mechanical and electrical engineering departments by the Principal. He informed me that all facilities existed for mechanical and electrical engineering in the institution, that it was well equipped and very well staffed. It is probably the best polytechnic institution in India. I was informed that it could compare very favourably with the best polytechnic college in England. It is not only tables and chairs but steam-launches with all their mechanical appliances, and even shells for the battlefields of Europe which are being made there. I saw these with my own eyes and was highly elated with what I saw. I was told by the Principal of the College that the mechanical and electrical engineering departments were open to all boys who had passed the Matriculation examination, that the schooling fee was only Rs. 3 per month and messing and other charges Rs. 11. Some of the professors were men of superior attainments. So at an expense of only Rs. 14 per month you can have first-class teaching in a well-known college. I was moreover informed that there is room for 90 boys in that department. But the number of students is only 30. Government have been spending Rs. 3,000 per month for keeping up this department alone or rather Rs. 100 per month for each boy. We see that in point of efficiency, cheapness and accommodation there exists a model institution within the same Presidency and that at not an out-of-the-way place. And I was informed that the Engineering College with the mechanical and electrical engineering departments were developing fast. I therefore put it to my friend, the Mover of this Resolution and to the people of this place, why should not the students of Eastern Bengal make the best use of an institution which I think is not and has not as yet been fully taken advantage of, an institution where you can have a higher standard of teaching in mechanical and electrical engineering than in any other part of India? There are not such facilities in Dacca as in Sibpur or in Calcutta for the study of mechanical and electrical engineering. If the boys want to confine their knowledge and practical training to the making of chairs, stools and tables or repairs of electric fans and lights, that is quite a different thing. If, however, my friend wants to have a standard of practical training under superior environments, I think the boys ought to be sent to Sibpur or Calcutta, for these places have special advantages which Dacca has not and cannot have. There is very little in the shape of mechanical engineering at Dacca. We have got in or near Sibpur, jute mills and cotton mills, railway workshops, the docks, the iron foundries and several firms of mechanical engineering, such as those of Burn & Co., Messrs. Martin & Co., John King & Co., Jessop & Co., the Calcutta Electric Supply Co. and numerous others. These are places where one can get practical experience of mechanical and electrical engineering after finishing one's studies in the Sibpur Engineering College. We cannot hope to acquire the knowledge which we can acquire at Sibpur anywhere else. Little learning is a dangerous thing, and it is useless to learn a smattering in these subjects and come out of the college with a knowledge which cannot prove to be much

Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY—*concluded.*

useful or be of much benefit either to the student or to the public. In these days of hard competition and survival of the fittest, every attempt should be made to give our boys the best training possible. We should therefore try to utilise the present institution at Sibpur. There cannot be efficiency when there is a lower standard of teaching.

"I would therefore ask my Hon'ble friend to consider these questions before pressing this part of the Resolution. I am not at all opposed to the Resolution. Far from it. I should like to see the means of acquiring knowledge, the agencies for imparting knowledge increase throughout the length and breadth of the land, so that in the words of His Majesty the King-Emperor, 'the homes of His Indian subjects may be brightened and their labours sweetened by the spread of knowledge, with all that follows in its train—a higher level of thought, of comfort and of health.' But we must try to look at a question from all points of view."

The Hon'ble SIR RAJENDRA NATH MOOKERJEE said:—

"My Lord, I yield, I hope, to no one in my earnest desire for the encouragement and spread of technical education in India and particularly in Bengal. But I am sorry that to-day I am in the anomalous position of having to oppose that part of the resolution moved by my Hon'ble friend Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq which relates to the re-opening of a section in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering. I may be permitted to explain my reasons, briefly, for taking up such a position. Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, broadly speaking, may be subdivided into two classes, the higher and lower. There is no institution, as far as I am aware, in India suitable and properly equipped for imparting education in the higher branch. So far as the lower branch is concerned, there are several institutions in India such as in Bombay, Roorkee and Sibpur, although the equipment, workshops, and laboratories, even in these institutions, are not all that can be desired. The primary and essential part in the education of this class of mechanical and electrical engineers consists in the practical training of the students which can only be properly imparted in institutions where there are large, well-equipped laboratories and workshops. The theoretical part of the education of these students, I venture to think, is only comparatively of secondary importance. In England and other parts of Europe, lads for this class of engineering, generally, I may say almost universally, leave school at the age of 15 or 16 and enter suitable workshops as apprentices and there work like ordinary workmen from eight to ten hours daily for a period of three to five years. They acquire their theoretical knowledge by attending evening classes and on the Continent they also attend Sunday classes. The consequence is that these youths, when they complete their apprenticeship and leave the workshops, are well suited for the posts of assistants in factories or other engineering workshops and are generally successful in their career. Apprentices who do not show any aptitude for mechanical training are soon weeded out in the workshops and adopt other walks of life more suited to their natural inclination and ability. Unfortunately in India, particularly in Bengal, boys are put into engineering schools or colleges often against their own inclination or aptitude and most of them after spending three to five years in a college get through their examinations, but the majority of them are failures as practical mechanics owing to their not having had a thorough grounding in the practical side of their profession. To remedy this defect in the education and practical training of students in the mechanical and electrical engineering classes, a proposal was made at a meeting of the Governing Body of the Sibpur Engineering College held last month under the presidency of the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon, the Vice-President of this Council, by Mr. Harnett, Locomotive and Carriage Superintendent, Eastern Bengal Railway, Kanchrapara, to the effect that he would be willing to admit a certain number of students, both Anglo-

Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee.

The Hon'ble SIR RAJENDRA NATH MOOKERJEE—*concluded.*

Indian and Indian, in the workshops at Kanchrapara for practical training, and he suggested that after a course of three or four years' training at the workshops these lads should be admitted to the Sibpur Engineering College for their theoretical education for a further period of two years—making five or six years' training in all. It is hoped that they will then be able to take their place successfully side by side with mechanics who have had an English training. As some doubt was expressed as to the sufficiency of the elementary education of Indian lads, at the age of 15 or 16 years, a suggestion was made that if such an arrangement were made whether it would not be practicable to impart theoretical education as well as practical training simultaneously, say, 4 days' practical and 2 days' theoretical. A sub-committee was appointed, consisting of three experts in technical education, to report on the expediency and feasibility of such a scheme. My Lord, it is therefore abundantly clear that the Governing Body of the Sibpur College, composed of distinguished educationalists and experts in technical education, having a staff of technical professors with an aggregate pay of Rs. 2,800 per mensem and with fairly extensive workshops and laboratories, do not consider the present methods of educating lads in the electrical and mechanical branches of engineering as satisfactory, and have appointed a sub-committee to suggest means to improve the present methods of education with the object of making the training more practical.

My Lord, it is not unknown to you and to the members of this Council, including my Hon'ble friend the Mover of this resolution, that it is a standing reproach that Bengali students of mechanical and electrical engineering are not, generally speaking, suitable for the work for which their education and training is supposed to fit them. The reasons for this, as far as I have been able to ascertain, are due to causes beyond the control of the students themselves. First, as I have already stated, they are pressed by parents and guardians to take up a career for which they have no inclination or aptitude and, secondly, the method of education in these branches of engineering compels them to give more time to the theoretical part of their education than to practical training. It should be the aim of all well-wishers of our students to try and remove the drawbacks of the existing system rather than add to them, as would certainly be the case if more small schools of engineering are opened or re-opened. Such schools can only give a very imperfect education and very little practical training, and would in many cases ruin the future careers of students who, without being in a position to judge, join them in the hope of laying the foundation of a successful future.

My Lord, I shall not take up more of the Council's time, but I hope that my Hon'ble friend will realise that if the first portion of his resolution is given effect to, *i.e.*, if the re-opening of the mechanical and electrical engineering sections of the Dacca School of Engineering takes place without proper staff, equipment and workshops, he will be doing great injury to the cause of technical education. In my opinion, we should concentrate our energies and use all the funds available for the purpose of bringing this branch of education at the Sibpur College up to the highest standard possible. I could perhaps sympathise with my Hon'ble friend if the Sibpur College could not take in all the students who wished to take up these branches of engineering as a profession, but this is not the case as the college can admit many more than have hitherto sought admission. If it be considered necessary or desirable to offer special encouragement to students from Eastern Bengal, I would suggest that special scholarships or freeships be founded at Sibpur for students from these districts. Having the welfare of engineering students very much at heart, I am strongly opposed to any system of training which will not permit them to start on their professional careers with every advantage that experience has shown to be necessary and for this reason I feel it my duty to oppose the resolution proposed by my Hon'ble friend."

Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar; Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.

The Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR said :—

"My Lord, for the future development of Eastern Bengal and, for the matter of that, of the entire Presidency, it is of the utmost importance that a fresh centre of culture and enlightenment should be established at Dacca, once the historic capital of Bengal. It is said to be the second capital of the Province. But it should be so not merely in name but in substance also. Dacca should be to Calcutta what Poona is to Bombay. With a residential university in this ancient town the realisation of this ideal, if sincerely and zealously pursued, may be neither too difficult nor very far distant. As a preliminary step towards this great consummation devoutly to be wished, Dacca should be provided with two independent first-class institutions—one in Medicine and the other in Engineering. The resolution brought forward by my Hon'ble friend touches neither the one nor the other, and I am free to confess it does not satisfy me. I am, however, in perfect agreement with him in so far as he demands the re-opening of vernacular survey classes in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering. There is undoubtedly a great demand in the country for professional surveyors of this class and the establishment of Vernacular Survey classes here at Dacca would go a great way to meet this demand. But I do not think that to attain this object it is at all necessary to interfere with the existing Survey School at Mainamati. Dacca and Comilla are enough wide apart to admit of two such schools for two different and distant parts of the province. Besides, I am unable to advocate the principle of robbing Peter to pay Paul. I therefore heartily support the second part of my Hon'ble friend's resolution without, however, any prejudice to the Mainamati School. As regards the first part of the resolution which urges the establishment of a section in mechanical and electrical engineering in connection with the Dacca School of Engineering, I do not think that it either satisfies the actual requirements of the ideal which I have put forward at the opening of my address, or that it is a practical or satisfactory means towards the attainment of the object which the resolution has apparently in view. Mechanical and electrical engineering are highly technical subjects which require not only a more efficient teaching staff but also a much higher qualification for the students than can be expected in an ordinary engineering school such as we have at Dacca. This higher branch of practical engineering would also require expensive laboratories and other appliances which cannot be within the scope of an ordinary engineering school. I should have therefore expected my Hon'ble friend to have urged for the establishment of an Engineering College at Dacca, like the one which has long been in existence at Sibpur, and which by slow degrees might eventually come to acquire the higher standard of efficiency, which the latter has attained in mechanical and electrical engineering. I deprecate the tone of any discussion which views with jealousy the development of one part of Bengal more than another. I have no faith in parochial patriotism circumscribed by geographical boundaries. I am a Bengalee and Bengal is my motherland. Whatever improvement is effected in one part of Bengal benefits the other. By all means let us try to improve Eastern Bengal; but let us not think that the improvement of Western Bengal is antagonistic to the development of Eastern Bengal. A good scheme should have a solid foundation for it and it is hardly of any practical utility to devise an ill-conceived project without proper materials for its execution. While therefore heartily supporting the second part of my Hon'ble friend's resolution I do not see my way to support its first part."

The Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA said :—

"My Lord, I want to make only one or two observations on that part of the Resolution which deals with the Survey classes. The resolution as it stands is absolutely different from the one supported in the Hon'ble Mover's speech. The resolution as it stands has no reference to the transference of the Survey classes at Comilla to Dacca——

Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq; Babu Akhil Chandra Datta; Maulvi Abul Kasem; Mr. Lyon.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said :—

"I never wanted a re-transfer."

The Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, continuing said :—

"If that is not his intention, then I support his resolution. But the position must be made clear, and it must be distinctly understood that the Hon'ble Member does not want any re-transfer of the Survey classes from Mainamati to Dacca. But if he insists on it, then I submit that this resolution should not be discussed to-day, because we are not prepared with facts and figures."

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM said :—

"My Lord, I beg to say something in connection with the observations that have fallen from the Hon'ble Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjea. It has been said that the first part of the resolution is unnecessary because there is a Government Engineering College at Sibpur and that there are mechanical and electrical classes in connection with it. The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray has stated that there is accommodation for 90 boys in these classes. There are at present only 30 boys attending those classes and so there is room for 60 boys more. But, my Lord, what we want is education in industrial and technical subjects and I submit that accommodation for 90 students is not sufficient for a province like Bengal. It is a fact that the mechanical and engineering classes existed in Dacca for more than 20 years. It was started in 1894 and abolished in 1914 and I do not see any reason why that cannot be re-established. It has been observed that a school of mechanical and electrical engineering which has not a proper staff will be of no use whatever. But the resolution does not suggest that it should not be properly staffed. What I want to say is this that there should be a fully and properly-equipped school here and that would encourage East Bengal boys to get themselves trained in these two subjects, and I think that there can be no two opinions on the subject of re-opening such a school at Dacca. There are Schools of Engineering in Bihar and Cuttack, and I see no reason why there should not be one in Dacca."

The Hon'ble MR. LYON said :—

"My Lord, I think we are to be congratulated on the very interesting debate to which this resolution has led. We have had this matter discussed from both points of view, both in favour of the Hon'ble Member who has moved it and also in favour of those who are opposed to it. I think I may take it as thoroughly understood that we are all at one, and in sympathy with the Hon'ble Mover, in the general desire to spread technical education of all kinds all over the Province, whether it be by the teaching of surveying or the teaching of mechanical and electrical engineering. The Hon'ble Member might certainly have credited this Government with having no desire to do harm to Dacca in this particular matter, and I can assure him and the Members of this Council that the question of how the reduction in the courses at the School of Engineering in Dacca would affect the general prosperity of the School and the advantages to be offered to Dacca students was very carefully considered, with every possible care for the interests of these students, before we came to our decision. Consequently, I think, that when the Hon'ble Mover sat down, other Hon'ble Members of this Council must have been left with a suspicion that other reasons were to be found why these courses of instruction should have been closed. I am glad that these reasons should have been given to the Council, and with so much ability, by some of the Hon'ble Members who have joined in this debate. I think that we could not have obtained in Bengal any greater expert in these matters than one of the Hon'ble Members who have addressed you on the subject. The Hon'ble Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharjee has personal knowledge and experience, and he has explained to you with great care why it is that he is

The Hon'ble Mr. LYON—*continued.*

unable to accept the motion, so far as it relates to the mechanical and electrical overseer course in the School of Engineering here. We have also had an interesting speech from the Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Ray, who has studied the question on the spot, in that he has visited the Sibpur Engineering College and has examined into the circumstances in which mechanical and electrical engineering are taught in that College. Before we came to the decision to close the classes in Dacca, we took a great deal of trouble to find out exactly how far this form of teaching could be adequately given here in this school of engineering. We began by having the classes inspected by the two experts in these subjects—Mr. Everett and Mr. A. K. Taylor. They reported to the Joint Technical Education Board, and at the same time the Superintending Engineer, Mr. Walsh (now Chief Engineer to the Government of Bengal), with Mr. Heaton, also reported on the subject in the course of a general inspection of the work of the school. All these gentlemen reported against maintaining the Overseer classes in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in Dacca, and the Joint Technical Examination Committee Board, which comprises the best advice which we can get together in Bengal, agreed that it would be better to close the classes here. The reasons have been examined by the Hon'ble Member, but I think that he has omitted to give full consideration to the want of demand for these classes. The Hon'ble Member who last spoke said that the accommodation provided at Sibpur for thirty students would not suffice, and that we wanted a large number of students to study these subjects and go out into the world to obtain employment. Unfortunately, however much accommodation we may give, we do not get students to make use of it, for the very good reason that when they go out into the world they do not get employment. The classes attracted four students when they were first opened and in the second year attracted four more. These were the only students who came, and only four students appeared from Dacca for the examination in this Branch in 1915 and four in 1916. I may mention that for the same examination only six students appeared from Sibpur in 1916. Consequently we had only ten students in the whole province; and I think that the Council will agree that it is not a practical proposition that we should establish separate classes and set up very elaborate and expensive equipment in two parts of the province for the benefit of only ten students. Had there been any great demand for these classes we should certainly have provided for the expenditure necessary to supply the School of Engineering here with the extra equipment and extra staff to enable it to afford education in this subject to the students pressing to obtain it. But that demand has not arisen.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Ray has suggested that there is ample scope for the extension of instruction in engineering. I should like to correct a possible misapprehension in this matter. We fully admit that there is a demand for facilities for engineering education, and we have shown ourselves at all times ready to meet it in every possible way. But we are dealing here merely with the Overseer course in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and for such a course no demand has been shown to exist. The Government are accordingly unable to accept that portion of this resolution which refers to these classes. Although we realise to the full the disadvantages of Dacca students in Calcutta and the expenses they have to incur, (and we regret very much the disabilities from which they suffer), we could not, having regard to financial considerations, especially at the present moment, promise to re-open these classes here.

With reference to the Survey classes, I am glad to be able to meet the Hon'ble Member's resolution, at least partially. We did not close those classes here without very careful consideration. An expert committee inspected them and considered the subject, and a conference of officials went into the question under the orders of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government at a time when we were doing all we could to help Dacca. The conference came to the conclusion that it was undesirable to continue the classes

The Hon'ble MR. LYON—*continued.*

at the Engineering School, and a complete scheme was then prepared with a view of concentrating all education work in surveying, both elementary surveying and higher class training in survey work, at some suitable central place, and after a good deal of examination and discussion it was determined to establish this survey school at Mainamati. A very general desire has, however, been expressed for the reintroduction of these particular classes in the School of Engineering at Dacca. They were very successful here, and there is some reason to believe that they may not possibly thrive so healthily at Mainamati. While the Government are therefore considering the question of re-opening these classes, we have to determine the exact form the classes are to take, how far they will fit in with the higher training in survey which is offered in the School at Mainamati, and also the curriculum which will be approved by the zamindars and others who are—as pointed out by the Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Ray—the chief employers of this form of labour.

As to the attack which has been made on the School at Mainamati, we have heard the reasons given by the Hon'ble Mr. Rasul in support of the action taken by Government to start this School, and the evidence which he has given to show that the school is not so bad as it has been painted by the Hon'ble Mover. It is a new institution, which has had to deal with new problems and has had its difficulties. It is to be inspected very shortly by the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell, who is going into the whole question of the training of surveyors and will deal incidentally with the institution of classes elsewhere, should they be required, to lead up to the higher work at Mainamati. I am sure that the Hon'ble Mover will be glad to hear that there is a very simple explanation of the extraordinary difference to which he has called attention in the cost of the defunct classes at Dacca and the School at Mainamati. He stated that the work which used to be done here at Dacca for Rs. 2,600 is now being done at Mainamati at a cost of Rs. 16,00 . Hon'ble Members must have regretted very much to think that we were dealing with matters in this fashion in these times of financial stress, but as a matter of fact the work which is being done at Mainamati includes a great deal of higher training work in survey which was no part of the curriculum in the Dacca classes. An attempt is being made at Mainamati to give a thorough equipment in survey to all classes of surveyors, and to train men for the higher branches of survey work as well as for the elementary duties of *amins*. We wish to fit Bengalis for those higher departments of survey work which have hitherto been almost entirely absorbed by up-countrymen. The Hon'ble Member has complained because we cannot convert Bengali students into thoroughly competent traverse surveyors at the first attempt, and has compared these traverse surveyors wrongly with the *amins* turned out from the School here. Up to quite recent years there were very few Bengali traverse surveyors at all, and the whole of the traverse survey work done by the Survey Department was done by up-country surveyors; but we have been making every effort to fit Bengali students to take up this work and to perform in their own country duties which are now being done by foreigners, and I am quite sure that Hon'ble Members will sympathise with us in the efforts we are making.

With reference to this training in surveying, we are still trying to work out a complete and satisfactory scheme, and we think that this will lead eventually to the re-opening of the classes at Dacca with the desire for which we very greatly sympathise.

I am sorry that I cannot meet the first part of the Resolution except by an uncompromising negative; but in the case of the latter part of the Resolution, while I do not think that this Council should commit itself at once to a decision that the former classes at the School of Engineering here should be re-opened until we have gone into the whole matter still further, and until the Mainamati classes have been carefully inspected again, I think we may look forward to the probability of the establishment of some such classes in Dacca within the next few months. In these circumstances, I would

Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.

The Hon'ble MR. LYON—*concluded.*

suggest to the Hon'ble Member that he might withdraw his Resloution. or. if he does not wish to do so, I would ask the Council to meet it with a negative."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said :—

"My Lord, before I reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon's observations, I should like to say that I would have been very much obliged if he had stated with further clearness the position of Government as regards the re-opening of the Survey classes at Dacca. As far as I can understand the position, Government are not prepared to commit themselves by their promises and I do not think I can fairly expect any member of Government to make a definite promise of that character. But if, as the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon has admitted, there is a growing desire on the part of the people in this country for the re-opening of the classes, if the Government are satisfied also that it is desirable to re-open these classes, then we are satisfied that on some future date it will be done.

As regards the first portion of the Resolution, I know it is hopeless for one to go on with it. I have now been four years in Council and know that going against official opposition is like dashing one's head against a stone wall. But if Government really accept the second portion of the Resolution it will meet with the wishes of the people and we must be content with small mercies. If, my Lord, a statement like that is made, I would ask for your Excellency's permission to withdraw the Resolution."

The Resolution was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 6.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ was to have moved the following Resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that a larger number of Muhammadan students than at present be admitted each year into the Calcutta Medical College and the Campbell Medical School.

He said :—

"My Lord, since I gave notice of this Resolution, I have had a talk with the Hon'ble the Surgeon-General and also with the Hon'ble Mr. Donald, and I do not wish at the present moment to press this Resolution, and I would ask your Excellency's permission to move this Resolution at some future sitting of the Council."

The Resolution was then, by leave of the President, postponed for discussion to a future meeting of the Council.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 7.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ moved the following Resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that at least one more hostel, on the lines of the Taylor Hostel in Wellington Square, be opened for Muhammadan students in Calcutta.

He said :—

"In moving this Resolution, I am really re-opening a matter which has been discussed in this Council at least a dozen times in the course of the last

Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ—*concluded.*

four years. It was in the Dacca session about two years ago that I moved a similar resolution which was, although not accepted by Government at the time, given effect to later on by the establishment of the Taylor Hostel in Wellington Square. Since then, events have shown that the existing hostel arrangements in Calcutta for Hindu and Muhammadan students are absolutely inadequate to meet the demand and that every year hundreds and hundreds of students have to give up their studies simply because they cannot get good accommodation to reside in the city for the purposes of study. The Calcutta University has decided that no student living in unrecognised hostels or messes will be allowed to sit for any examination of the University, and it seems to me, my Lord, that only those persons will be allowed to continue their studies who, by some chance or other, succeed in getting accommodation in the existing hostels and messes. It does not matter whether there are 10,000 students fit to sit at the examination. If there are only 500 seats available in hostels, the remaining 9,500 must perforce give up their study. It is not my intention to take up the time of the Council by bringing forward the cases of students of every community. I have purposely limited myself to the case of Muhammadan students only. And so far as hostel accommodation for them is concerned, it is hopelessly inadequate, and the state of things is such that it is still a standing reproach to the Government, although they have done much and are doing much for Muhammadan education in this country. It is now barely a quarter of a century that Muhammadans have appreciated the benefits of an English education and they do certainly require exceptional facilities in carrying on their education. And if any special facilities are accorded to them, it will not, I am sure, be unwelcome to members of other communities in this country. The Wellington Square Hostel, which was started not very long ago, has had to refuse applications from more than 70 Muhammadan students already for want of accommodation, and a similar state of things exists in other hostels in Calcutta. This is certainly a great obstacle put in the way of Muhammadan education in this Presidency. I do not like to take up the time of the Council any longer, but the position created by the University is something like this. If your Excellency rules that no one can take part in the deliberations of the Council without entering the Council Chamber and at the same time you shut the door against their entrance, that will represent to some extent the attitude which the University has taken up in this connection. What are the Muhammadan students to do if they cannot be provided with seats in a recognised hostel? The Muhammadan community is a particularly poor community, and it is not possible for them to raise sufficient funds for the establishment of hostels. If that were at all possible, then there would not be any need for us to move these Resolutions. Government recognise the necessity of furthering the cause of Muhammadan education in this Presidency and there are 7 lakhs of rupees from the Government of India earmarked for that purpose. I am only urging your Excellency's Government to give effect to the promise which has been given to the Muhammadan community to have as many hostels for Muhammadan students as possible in this Presidency. Of course at the present moment, I do not expect Government to launch into a big project of building hostels, but surely houses can be rented at comparatively moderate sums for students who could not be allotted seats in hostels and recognised messes in Calcutta. If this is done by your Excellency's Government, it would prove a great benefit to the Muhammadan boys reading in Calcutta. With these few observations, I beg to commend my Resolution to the Council."

The Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR said :—

"My Lord, I have the fullest sympathy with the object of the Resolution, and if the necessity for another hostel for Muhammadan students in Calcutta really exists, I should be the last person to stand in the way of my Hon'ble friend's Resolution. But I have some doubt as to the correctness of the

Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda.

The Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR—*concluded.*

procedure which he has adopted. As far as I understand, the arrangement for hostel accommodations for college students in Calcutta, I think, Government every year make an allotment for the purpose which is placed at the disposal of the University. Application for any new hostel should therefore be made to the Senate or the Syndicate, and if they find themselves unable to entertain such application for want of necessary funds, Government should be moved to supplement their grant to the University to meet the demand of such an application."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, there is hardly any difference in the aims of Government and of my Hon'ble friend who has moved this Resolution. We all realise the necessity for more hostel accommodation, but all I claim is this that we have not ignored the interests of the Muhammadan students and we have done as much as has been possible for us to do in order to provide facilities for them.

I would, for the benefit of the Council, quote some figures. In 1914 we made an inquiry in regard to hostel accommodation and found that in Calcutta there were about 510 students reading in the different colleges and that out of these 109 students were accommodated in Government hostels, 24 in hostels attached to colleges, and 30 in licensed messes, 124 lived with their parents and 223 with other guardians. Since then Government have done all that has been humanly possible to do to give further accommodation to Muhammadan students. We sanctioned a scheme for the extension of the Baker Hostel at a cost of Rs. 2,98,000 and now one of the wings of the Baker Hostel, namely, the north-eastern wing, which has accommodation for 42 students, has already been opened, and the north-western wing is under construction. It will accommodate about 28 students and it is hoped that in about three months' time it will be available for use. There is also the south-eastern wing, which will be taken in hand as soon as difficulties about the acquisition of a small strip of land are overcome. This wing will accommodate 14 students. When the extension of the Baker Hostel is complete, it will accommodate altogether 84 students. We have also established in Wellington Square a hostel which accommodates 74 boys. When the Baithakkhana Hostel is constructed it will provide accommodation for 200 students. It is hoped that this additional accommodation will satisfy the demand of the Muhammadan students, because as soon as the Baithakkhana Hostel is opened, even if the Willington Square Hostel is closed, it will give extra accommodation to 126 students. The question whether after the Baithakkhana hostel is opened the Wellington Hostel should continue is not necessary to discuss now, because when the new hostel is constructed we will be in a better position to judge whether we still require the Wellington Square Hostel. There is one difficulty about this matter which, I think, I ought to bring to the notice of the Council. The Government of India have laid down certain rules about the apportionment of costs between the students and Government, when hostels are opened in hired houses, and the rule is that half the cost is to be paid by the students and the other half by Government. In the case of the Wellington Square Hostel the rent comes to about Rs. 4,585. If the principle laid down by the Government of India were followed, it would have been necessary for the Muhammadan students to pay about Rs. 2,300 themselves. It was, however, considered hard for the Muhammadan students who are generally poor to pay this money, and therefore we accepted a lower scale and the Government of India have sanctioned the concession on the express condition that it was to be temporary, and we have taken the house only for five years. It is not quite clear, when we have got the Baithakkhana hostel, which will be convenient for all those who want to read in the Presidency College or any other colleges in that neighbourhood, whether there will be any necessity for further accommodation in that locality, and it is, at the present moment, difficult to say

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA—*concluded.*

anything definite on this point. All I can say is that Government have done within these few years all that it was possible to do, and although on account of the financial stringency various other necessary schemes have been postponed, the extension of the Baker Hostel was allowed to go on by special sanction of the Government of India. As I have said, of the three wings of the Baker Hostel except a very small one, the other two have already been taken in hand, of which one is now complete and the other is nearing completion. I am therefore compelled—although I yield to none in my desire to provide more hostel accommodation to Muhammadan students—to oppose this Resolution, as I think it has not been made out that the accommodation that is going to be provided will be insufficient. On the whole, as I have already said, we shall get about 100 additional seats in the Baker Hostel and we shall have 200 seats available when the Baithakkhana hostel is constructed. My Hon'ble friend has not shown by figures that this will not meet the demand. When these hostels are constructed and the financial stringency disappears and if there is still any great demand for further accommodation, I am certain that every effort will be made to meet that demand, but at the present moment I can make no promise and cannot therefore accept the Resolution."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said :—

"My Lord, I can well understand what fate awaits my Resolution, but I cannot sit down without adding a few words to what I have already said. The Hon'ble Member has stated that about 510 students are accommodated in several hostels and messes in Calcutta. It is really a fairly big list, but when it is triumphantly pointed out, I am reminded of the little story which we all read in Æsop's Fables while we were boys in school. There was a Greek god in whose temple was hung up a list of the persons whose desires had been fulfilled by the god. A man, however, asked where the list could be found of those persons who had to go away without having their desires fulfilled. It is, my Lord, true that 510 students have found accommodation in Calcutta, but will the Hon'ble Member lay on the table a statement showing how many persons had to go away from Calcutta disappointed for not finding hostel accommodation, and how many had to give up their college career, simply because they could not get any accommodation in which they could shelter themselves while pursuing their studies in the city? If 10 students are accommodated in the Wellington Square Hostel, 100 students have to go away disappointed. Although the Hon'ble Member says that 100 are accommodated in the Baker Hostel, roughly speaking, 2 hundreds of students will still go away disappointed. I may say that about 2,000 students fail to secure hostel accommodation. Is it not therefore enough to make out a case for hostel accommodation every year? If these things do not convince the Government, I am sure nothing on my part will do it. I must say that Government have shown great consideration for the requirements of the Muhammadan community in coming forward from time to time in their efforts to provide facilities for the spread of Muhammadan education. My complaint is that, although much has been done, a great deal more remains to be done. I do not press for the establishment of a hostel but only for a house being rented where students could be lodged, such as in the Wellington Square Hostel It will not cost much; the rent will come up to Rs. 300 to Rs. 400, a portion of which will be realized from the students in the shape of messing fees and seat-rents. I am not in a position to give accurate figures, but I think that the Wellington Square Hostel does not cost Government more than Rs. 100 a month. At the expense of, say, Rs. 1,000 a year, Government may give the Muhammadan students a very much needed hostel which, I submit, has been very keenly felt by Muhammadan students for the last few years. In this matter we can only remind Government that we have been hearing this promise from 1913,

Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ—*concluded.*

when I first entered your Excellency's Council The promise was made in 1913, it was repeated in 1914, repeated again in 1915 and re-repeated in 1916, and I think we will have it in 1917. I am told that when the new hostels which are being constructed are completed they will accommodate many students, but I may submit, my Lord, that by that time many students will have given up their study. As the want of accommodation is very keenly felt, I have brought forward this resolution. As regards the further extention to the Baker Hostel, I do not think that owing to the financial stringency we shall get it in the near future. In these circumstances, I respectfully submit that another house be hired on the lines of the Wellington Square Hostel and it will then very keenly fell want in the another of hostel accommodation for Muhammadan students."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED-SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, I desire to correct a statement which my Hon'ble friend has made regarding the Wellington Square Hostel. He has stated that Government do not spend more than Rs. 100 a month for that hostel. As a matter of fact the expenses come up to Rs. 4,588 out of which the fees paid by Muhammadan students amounts to Rs. 1,960 leaving a balance of Rs. 2,628 which is paid by the Government.

Besides this, the charges for superintendence, etc., are paid by Government. The difficulty in the case of Muhammadan students is that every one of them is not in a position to pay what, according to the directions of the Government of India, they are bound to do. We had to take advantage of the fact that the Government show some concessions to backward classes. We did not like to admit that Muhammadans belonged to the backward classes, but we had to do so in order that the community might benefit in this regard and the amount was accordingly reduced and they now pay Rs. 1,960 only.

The Hon'ble Member has also said that Government made a promise some time ago. I do not know what the promise he has referred to is. Government promised the extension of the Baker Hostel and also to have another hostel constructed somewhere near College Square so that students of the Presidency and other colleges might reside there, and I may inform the Council that land has already been acquired and the latter hostel would soon be constructed.

A Division was then taken with the following result :—

Ayes.	Noes.
The Hon'ble Mr. Altaf Ali.	The Hon'ble Mr. P. C Lyon, C.S.I.
" " Mr. M. Ashraf Ali Khan Chaudhuri.	" " Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda, K.C.I.E.
" " Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.	" " Mr. N. D Beatson Bell, C.S.I., C.I.E.
" " Mr. A. Rasul.	" " Mr. J. H Kerr, C.I.E.
" " Maulvi Abul Kasem.	" " Mr. J. Donald.
" " Mr. Z. R. Zahid Suhrawardy.	" " Mr. H. H. Green.
" " Babu Surendra Nath Ray.	" " Mr. W. W. Hornell.
" " Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.	" " Mr. J. Lang.
" " Jal Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.	" " Col. W. R. Edwards, C.B., C.M.G.
	" " Mr. F. J. Monahan
	" " Rai Priya Nath Mukherji Bahadur.
	" " Mr. J. Mackenzie.
	" " Mr. Amiour Rahman
	" " Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.
	Amir-ul-Omrah, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.
	" " Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, K.C.I.E.
	" " Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray.
	" " Babu Arun Chandra Sinha
	" " Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar.
	" " Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri
	" " Raj Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur.
	" " Rai Sri Nath Ray Bahadur.
	" " Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray.
	" " Mr. E. B. Eden.
	" " Mr. E. A. Martin.
	" " Mr. H. R. A. Irwin.
	" " Mr. R. Gleu.
	" " Mr. A. Birkmyre.

Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Huq ; Mr. Beatson Bell.

The following Members were absent :—

The Hon'ble Mr. E. B. H. Panton.
" " Mr. C. H. Bompas.
" " Mr. C. F. Payne.
" " Rai Debendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur.
" " Mr. Pravash Chandra Mitra.
" " Mr. E. H. Bray.
" " Babu Mahendra Nath Ray, C.I.E.
" " Mr. K. B. Dutt.
" " Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M.
" " Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari, C.I.E.
" " Dr. Nilratan Sarkar.
" " Raja Hrishikesh Laha, C.I.E.
" " Sir Satyendra Prasanna Sinha, KT.
" " Mr. G. C. Godfrey.

The Hon'ble Member named below abstained from voting :—

The Hon'ble Babu Brajendra Kishor Ray Chaudhuri.

The Ayes being 9 and the Noes 27, the motion was lost.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 8.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ moved the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that steps be taken to make provision, as far as possible, for Kanungos who have been thrown out of employment owing to the stoppage of fresh survey and settlement operations in Bengal.

He said :—

"My Lord, the conditions under which the kanungos have been working and the amount of work they have done to render the settlement operations a success, are fully known to every one, and I do not wish to take up your Excellency's time by urging their claims upon your Excellency's consideration. It is an extremely humane resolution, if I may so call it, and I hope your Excellency's Government will see their way to accepting it."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

"My Lord, Government gladly accept this resolution. The question has engaged our anxious attention for the last year, and we are doing all we can for these unfortunate kanungos. We welcome suggestions from any quarter. I should like to be more definite, but it is not desirable that I should give rise to hopes which may not be realised. I may say, however, that there is one direction in which the Hon'ble Mover and other members of the legal profession can give substantial help. They can see that no difficulties are placed in the way of survey commissions from civil courts being entrusted to qualified kanungos who are temporarily unemployed."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The President.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

HIS EXCELLENCY THEN ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL.

He said :—

"Gentlemen, our business is now done, but it is the custom for the President to use the opportunity afforded by a Council meeting in order to speak about any matter which interests Members if he thinks he can do so with advantage. I wish to avail myself of that opportunity now. First, I must say that I am glad to see so many of you here. It is hardly likely in the nature of things that the Governor of Bengal will often ask the Members of his Council to do much legislative work in Dacca; though I think he may continue to find it of distinct service to summon them to meet here occasionally. The people of this part of the Presidency do not claim that Dacca is equal in importance to Calcutta, but many of them, when they look back to the time when Calcutta was the Political Capital of India, and Dacca was the Capital of a Province, feel that a city which was once a capital has peculiar claims to consideration. Be that as it may, I know that the people of Dacca are pleased when we, who usually meet in the second city of the Empire, meet here in the second capital of Bengal; and so I am glad to find when I do ask you to come here that you are willing to do.

And now I want to speak of one matter which I know puzzles some of you. You have heard or read about those Bengali young men who were doing hospital work with the troops in Mesopotamia and who have quite recently returned. You are surprised to find that no other Bengali young men have gone out in their place, for you believe that some young men were ready prepared to go, and had for a long time been anxious to go. You wonder why they have not gone and some of you do not feel quite comfortable about this.

The Bengali young men, who were in Mesopotamia and who have come back, went there full of enthusiasm and determined to show that Bengalis can be useful in a place where war is going on. They did work which has been pronounced by those best qualified to judge to have been useful work and good work; they won the hearty thanks of those who were on the spot and who saw what they were doing. Their fellow countrymen have every right to be proud of them; and all of us, whether their fellow countrymen or not, ought to be grateful to them.

They stayed on in Mesopotamia doing their work of mercy; many of them until long after they would have liked to come back, and all of them for longer than they had undertaken to stay.

Now that they have come back they are fully entitled not only to the commendation due to any one who has tried his best to serve his country, but also to that further praise which comes to the successful. Dr. Suresh Prasad Sarbadhikari who organized the hospital work, and who raised the men; those who worked with him in doing this; those of your own number and the others who joined with you in subscribing the money needed for equipment, all deserve our thanks. This is fully recognized by all who have any knowledge of what was done by the young men. Dr. Suresh Prasad Sarbadhikari and his co-workers did raise other men and hoped that they, too, would go to Mesopotamia—not this time to run a stationary hospital, but to do strictly ambulance work and form a stretcher-bearer corps. Dr. Suresh Prasad Sarbadhikari worked hard; he never spared himself in his noble endeavour to prepare young men to do good work. It is a bitter disappointment to him and to many others that the young men have not gone. They have not gone because there was a misunderstanding. We all know how easy it is at any time for people who are not familiar with technicalities to misunderstand things which seem simple to those who are familiar with them. That is what happened. Owing to a misunderstanding, the nature and extent of which was not realized until it was too late the young men, who were so eagerly looking forward to going, have not gone.

Military matters must be subject to fixed rules; civilians do not often study these rules; even when they do, they do not always grasp their import. While war is going on it is not easy, it is probably not even right, for military authorities to find time to discuss matters which in a time of peace they might, perhaps, be prepared to discuss; and it is not always easy for civilians, especially when they have eagerly set their hearts on getting something, to appreciate the importance of regulations which they do not understand, but which seem to them to run counter to their wishes. I think I can say with truth that I am as jealous for the honour of Bengal as any one can be who was not born a Bengali: and I assure you that I sympathise in your disappointment. I have heard the whole story; I have read all the papers. I realize how the misunderstanding came about. Mistakes were made, but I believe they were honestly made; and I feel sure there ought to be no resentment against any one. I do not despair. I believe we may yet see more young Bengalis doing ambulance work at the front, and thus helping to win the war, if only there are young men willing to do it; but there must be no acting in haste, no assuming that things will be as we would like them to be; every step must be fully and accurately understood. We must realize—more clearly than we are sometimes apt to do—the terrible responsibility which rests with those who are the final authority in all arrangements for conducting a war. We must remember that their regulations have been carefully thought out and adopted long ago. I believe the authorities are sympathetic; I know they appreciate enthusiasm and devotion wherever these are found; but their first duty is to win the war, and they must enforce what they think right even when we do not see the reason of it.

One thing more I want to tell you. The Viceroy has been considering the position with the Commander-in-Chief, and with the other members of his Government. They have determined to try, as an experimental measure, to raise a Double Company of Infantry composed of Bengalis, on precisely the same terms as are offered to the Indian Army generally. Enlistment will be for the period of the war with the option to the soldier of remaining, if he chooses, in the service after its conclusion. The Double Company, when formed, will be located on the Frontier for training, and, when properly trained, may be sent on field service.

That the Government of India should be willing to consider this now,—while war is going on, while their anxieties are great, while their thoughts must be more than fully occupied,—shows that they have not neglected the feelings of Bengal. That they should be willing to make the experiment is proof that they do sympathise with us, that they do believe that Bengalis are loyal and are devoted. Surely it is the duty now of everyone who loves Bengal to see that the experiment shall succeed, to show that emotional and impetuous as Bengalis undoubtedly are, they are generous enough to exercise self-control, that they are ready to submit to discipline, and will do their part when asked just as well as other people do their part, and without demanding any exceptional or better terms.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council now stands adjourned until 11 A.M. on 4th September when we shall meet in Government House, Calcutta."

A. M. HUTCHISON,

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal and
Secy. to the Bengal Legislative Council (Offg.).

CALCUTTA,
The 21st August, 1916.

B. S. Press—7-9-1916—1288J—350—J. L.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in Government House on Monday, the 4th September, 1916, at 11 A.M.

Present:

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., *Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I., *Vice-President.*

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. N. D. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble SURGEON-GENERAL W. R. EDWARDS, C.B., C.M.G.

The Hon'ble MR. F. J. MONAHAN.

The Hon'ble SIR. S. P. SINHA.

The Hon'ble MR. J. LANG.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. DONALD.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. H. BOMPAS.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNELL.

The Hon'ble MR. C. F. PAYNE.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'blo NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., AMIR-UL-OMRAH.

The Hon'ble SIR RAJENDRA NATH MOOKERJEE, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR.

The Hon'ble MR. J. MACKENZIE.

The Hon'ble MR. G. C. GODFREY.

The Hon'ble MR. AMINUR RAHMAN.

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. R. GLEN.

The Hon'ble MR. PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER.

The Hon'ble SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

The Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU BRAJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble BABU ARUN CHANDRA SINHA.

The Hon'ble Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Rai Debender Chunder Ghose Bahadur.

The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. H. Bray.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. Birkmyre.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. B. Eden.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. A. Martin.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. R. A. Irwin.

The Hon'ble Mr. Z. R. Zahid Suhrawardy.

The Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. Ashraf Ali Khan Chaudhuri.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. Rasul.

The Hon'ble Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray.

The Hon'ble Mr. Altaf Ali.

The Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.

The Hon'ble Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray.

The Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. B. Dutt.

The Hon'ble Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.

The Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 1.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

By the Hon'ble Mr. J. MACKENZIE :—

Ad-of * 1. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the insanitary condition of Howrah, also to the inadequacy of water-supply and the defective state of roads in that town?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that there is a definite opinion prevailing among the public that the municipal administration of Howrah is far from satisfactory?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the advisability of instituting an inquiry into the working of the Howrah municipal administration?

(*d*) Have the Government under consideration any scheme to annex Howrah to Calcutta and to place its affairs under the management of the Calcutta Corporation?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative. Owing to the war and the impossibility of obtaining loans, the Commissioners have had to postpone all capital expenditure except that to which they were actually committed, and various projects for the sanitary improvement of the town have had to be kept in abeyance. It is anticipated that, as soon as normal financial conditions are restored, systematic action will be taken to remove the defects referred to by the Hon'ble Member.

(*b*) Government have no information on the subject

(*c*) & (*d*) The answer is in the negative."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Municipal disenfranchisement of certain graduates under the Bengal Municipal Act

* 2. (*a*) Did the Government issue a circular (Municipal Department No. 11 M.), dated the 24th February, 1916, based upon an opinion of the late Advocate-General of Bengal, which has the effect of disenfranchising certain graduates and undergraduates living with their parents or guardians in a holding within a municipal town in respect of which the requisite rates are not paid by such graduates and undergraduates but by their parents or guardians?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the general opinion is that the interpretation given by the Advocate-General to clause (*iii*) of the proviso to section 15 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884 (Bengal Act III of 1884), as regards such graduates and undergraduates is inconsistent with the express provision of the law and the spirit of the policy of Government which made this special provision in favour of the educated community?

(*c*) Does the circular in question apply to all such graduates and undergraduates, who may be living with their parents or guardians or simply to such of them as may be students *in statu pupilari* only?

(*d*) How does the opinion of the Advocate General differentiate the cases of the medical licentiates, pleaders, mukhtears and revenue agents mentioned in the same clause (*iii*) of the proviso to section 15? And how does the circular distinguish the case of a third-year or fourth-year student of a college from that of an I.A. or I.Sc., who has given up his studies and is living with his parents or guardian without settling down in life?

(*e*) Are the Government aware of the public feeling that exists that the circular is not clear and that it is inconsistent with both the letter and the spirit of the law?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reconsidering this circular with a view either to withdraw or modify it?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" (*a*), (*c*) & (*d*) A copy of the circular referred to by the Hon'ble Member is laid on the table.

(*b*), (*e*) & (*f*) The answer is in the negative."

Circular referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *to question No. 2 (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR *at the Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1916.*

Circular No. 11M., dated Calcutta, the 24th February 1916.

From—THE HON'BLE MR. K. C. DE, C.I.E., I.C.S., Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

THE attention of Government has recently been drawn to the fact that some students in *statu pupilari* vote at municipal elections on an incorrect

construction of section 15 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884. The legal position is this: Under sections 14 and 15 of the Act a student who has passed the Intermediate or any higher examination of an Indian University, and who has attained 21 years of age, is entitled to vote, provided—

(*a*) that he has been resident within the limits of the municipality for not less than 12 months immediately preceding the election and

(*b*) that he occupies a holding or part of a holding in respect of which there have been paid during the year aforesaid certain prescribed rates and taxes, although he may not have paid them himself.

A superficial examination may lead to the inference that the requisite qualification as occupier of a holding or a part thereof would be conferred on a person otherwise entitled to the franchise on the grounds specified if he lives with his parents or guardians in the house of such parents or guardians or in a hostel or mess, when the specified rates have been paid in respect of the tenement in which he resides, even though the payment has not been made by himself.

The Hon'ble the Advocate-General of Bengal, who was consulted by Government on the subject, has expressed the opinion that a student living with his parents or guardians, who does not pay for the rooms or portion of rooms in which he lives, and has no right to the exclusive occupation of the premises, any room or a portion of a room, but is merely allowed to live there, does not "occupy" a holding or part of a holding within the meaning of section 15, proviso (*iii*) of the Bengal Municipal Act, III (B.C.) of 1884, as amended by Act II (B. C.) of 1896. As regards a student who lives in a hostel, in which he resides during terms only and has no right to reside during vacations, he cannot be said to occupy the holding or part of the holding within the meaning of the provisions cited. Moreover, the condition of residence within the municipality for the twelve months preceding will be infringed ordinarily in such a case. Government are further advised that having regard to the University Regulations, although the control over hostels is stricter than that over messes, the control in the latter case also is sufficient to negative legal occupation required by the law as an essential qualification of a municipal voter. It is thus apparent that students who reside either in a mess or in a hostel, or live with their parents or guardians in the houses of such parents or guardians, are not entitled to vote at municipal elections under the existing law.

I am therefore to suggest that the above interpretation of the law may be communicated to municipalities in your division, with a request that they may correct their voters' lists accordingly.

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR:—

Internments under the Defence of India Act.

* 3. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, in the case of persons interned under the Defence of India Act, it is the practice to inform the accused person of the nature of the charge brought against him so that he may be given an opportunity to meet the charge before an order of internment is passed?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to enunciate the principle in accordance with which the allowances of interned persons are determined?

(*c*) Have the Government received any complaints from interned persons that their allowances are insufficient?

(*d*) If so, what action (if any) has been taken in each case to remedy the grievance complained of?

(*e*) Is any provision made for the families of interned persons as is done in the cases of persons deported under Bengal Regulation III of 1818?

(*f*) If not, will the Government be pleased to explain the reason for the difference of treatment accorded in the case of interned persons?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) In the case of each suspect who is interned under the Defence of India Rules he is informed generally as to the allegations made against him, and is asked to state what he has to say in answer to them.

(*b*) All persons whose movements are restrained in Bengal and who are unable in consequence of the orders to maintain themselves, receive allowances from Government to enable them to obtain an ample supply of the food and other necessaries to which they are accustomed in their own homes. They are also, when domiciled away from their homes, provided with free accommodation at the cost of Government, and with their travelling expenses to their place of detention.

(*c*) & (*d*) Several complaints have been received; and have been made the subject of inquiry. If any complaint is found frivolous, it is rejected. When reasonable grounds are shown that the allowance is insufficient, it is increased.

(*e*) & (*f*) The policy adopted by Government is that they are prepared in each case to consider what the previous earnings of a *détenu* were and what resources are left to the family. When the absence of the *détenu* has rendered his family unable to obtain the necessaries of life, Government are prepared to consider the question of contributing to the maintenance of the family."

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :—

Alleged grievances of Rajshahi in the matter of appointments in the Provincial Judicial Service.

* 4. (*a*) Is it a fact that the appointments in the Provincial Judicial service are made exclusively by the High Court ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the appointments in the above Service held by the inhabitants of the Rajshahi Division do not exceed four per cent. of the total strength ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that no appointment in the above Service is held by the inhabitants of the districts of Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur or Malda?

(*d*) If the answers to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what steps (if any) are being taken by them to remove the grievances of the inhabitants of the Rajshahi Division in this respect ?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to section 7 of the Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts Act, 1887 (XII of 1887), which provides that the Local Government shall appoint such persons to vacancies in the Provincial Judicial Service as may be nominated by the High Court

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) One officiating Munsif, whose home is in Dinajpur, has recently been appointed. No persons belonging to the other districts hold appointments in the Provincial Judicial Service.

(*d*) Recruitment for the Provincial Judicial Service could not conveniently be made on a divisional basis, and Government are unable to interfere with the discretion of the High Court in the matter. This question and answer will, however, be brought to the notice of the High Court."

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :—

Recovery of rents under section 158 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

* 5. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total area, and gross rental, of estates in respect of which a record-of-rights has been prepared and finally published, and such record is maintained for the purposes of making the proprietors of such estates eligible to apply under section 158 A of the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885 (Act VIII of 1885) for recovery of rents?

(*b*) What steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to encourage the zamindars to apply under section 158 A for recovery of rents in the above area ?

(*c*) Has any application been made to the Government for recovery of rent under section 158 A ? If so, with what results ?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) Government are advised that for the purpose of section 158 A of the Bengal Tenancy Act the " maintenance " of a record-of-rights means the revision of that record, either annually or periodically, by Revenue Officers working under the supervision of Government. In this sense, the record-of-rights is not being " maintained " in any private estate in this province.

(*b*) It is open to any zamindar to apply for the introduction of section 158 A in his estate, but Government cannot take any special steps either to encourage or to discourage such applications.

(*c*) Several applications have been received by Government, but have been rejected owing to the absence of a scheme for maintenance such as is explained in clause (*a*) above. In a recent case, however, the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad has made an application in which he has undertaken to bear the cost of initial revision as well as the cost of subsequent maintenance in his Fatch Sing estate. The initial revision is now in progress. It is hoped that a satisfactory scheme of maintenance will soon be sanctioned and that the first experiment will be made in the working of section 158 A."

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :—

ducation of ern who are er the manage- t of the Court Wards.

* 6. Will the Government be pleased to state the names and ages of the minor wards under the management of the Court of Wards, and also the names of the institutions where they are being educated and what progress in education has been made by them?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" A statement showing the names and ages of the minor wards is laid on the table. As regards the progress of their education, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the paragraph on this subject which appears every year in the Board's report on wards' estates."

Statement referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR *to Question No. 6 (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1916, showing the names and ages of the minor wards.*

Division and District.	Name of estate.	Name of minor ward.	Age of minor ward.
BURDWAN DIVISION.			
Midnapore ...	Basudebpur Wards Estate ...	Babu Durga Das Roy	8 months.
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.	Gobardanga Wards Estate ...	Babu Kamala Prasanna Mukherji ...	20 years.
	Ditto ditto ...	„ Asita Prasanna Mukherji ...	17 „
	Bawali No. I	„ Prabudh Chandra Mandal ...	20 „
	Do. No I	„ Pratul Chandra Mandal ...	18 „
	Do. No III	„ Binay Krishna Mandal ...	17 „
	Do. No. III	„ Surendra Krishna Mandal ...	17 „
	Do. No. III	„ Bhola Nath Mandal ...	12 „
	Do. No. IV	„ Shricharan Mandal	19 „
	Janbazar Wards Estate ...	„ Mohan Gopal Biswas	17 „
Murshidabad ...	Kasimbazar	Kumar Kamala Ranjan Roy ...	10 „

Division and District.	Name of estate.	Name of minor ward.	Age of minor ward.
DACCA DIVISION			
Dacca ...	Estate of the late Nawab Sir Salimullah Bahadur, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., of Dacca.	Khwajah Hafizullah	11 years.
		,, Nasirullah	9 ,,
		,, Ahsanullah	Infant.
		Ahmadi Banu	5 years
		Khursidi Banu	8 ,,
		Aftab Banu	10 ,,
		Farhat Banu	6 ,,
	Estate of the late Khwajah Muhammad Ashruff of Dacca Nawab family.	Khwajah Salauddin, son of Nawab Sir Salimullah's sister Bilkish Banu by her husband Khwajah Muhammad Ashruff	12 ,,
Mymensingh ...	Kuratiya Estate	Syed Md. Muzaffarul Musavi ...	15 ,,
	Ditto	Syedani Musuda Khanum ...	18 ,,
Bakarganj ...	Bhukailas No. III Estate ...	Kumar Satya Prio Ghosal ...	17 ,,
	Dasmina Estate	Muhammad Fuzlul Karim Chowdhury	13 ,,
	D. N. Dutta Estate ...	Babu Rama Nath Dutta Chowdhury ...	8 ,,
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
Chittagong ...	Raj Kissen Banerji Estate ...	Babu Jyoti Bhusan Banerji ...	12 years.
Ditto ...	Ditto ditto ...	,, Kanti Bhusan Banerji ...	9 ,,
Ditto ...	Ditto ditto ...	,, Bibhuti Bhusan Banerji ...	12 ,,
Ditto ...	Ramratan Tewari ...	,, Kedar Nath Tewari ...	15 ,,
Ditto ...	Salamatali Khan ...	Musamat Karimannessa Khatun ...	18 ,,
Noakhali ...	Kail Tara Sen Estate ...	Nagendra Nath Sen Gupta ...	20 ,,
Ditto ..	Ditto ...	Upendra Nath Sen Gupta ...	17 ,,
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
Dinajpur ...	Churaman Estate ...	Babu Bhupal Chandra Roy Chowdhury	17 years.
	Jagadal do. ...	,, Bhupendra Kumar Chowdhury...	19 ,,
	H. C. Baral do. ...	,, Atul Chandra Boral ...	18 ,,
	P. C. Gupta do. ...	,, Satish Chandra Gupta ...	18 ,,
	Ditto do. ...	,, Ramesh Chandra Gupta ...	17 ,,
Darjeeling ...	Karma	Namgyal Sring	20 years.

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :—

Fines by Settlement Officers

*7. Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of fines imposed by the various officers of the Settlement Department in the Rajshahi district up to the end of 30th September, 1915, and the total amount of such fines, and also how many of these cases of fines, and involving what amount, have been appealed against, and with what result?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" Statements showing fines imposed by officers of the Rajshahi settlement and the results of appeals are laid on the table."

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR *to question No. 7 (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHERESWAR RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1916, showing the fine imposed by the Rajshahi Settlement from 1912 to 30th September, 1915.*

CASES IN WHICH FINE HAS BEEN INFLICTED.		CASES APPEALED AGAINST.		CONFIRMED IN APPEAL.		CONFIRMED IN APPEAL, BUT FINE REDUCED.			SET ASIDE.	
No	Total amount of fine	No.	Total amount of fine.	No.	Total amount of fine.	No.	Total imposed.	Modified total.	No.	Total amount of fine.
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.
127(a)	7,538	32	3,915	11	1,065	14	450	130	7	2,400
8(b)	862	1	315	...	...	1	315	75	...	...
135	8,400	33	4,230	11	1,065	15	765	205	7	2,400

(a) Settlement proper.
(b) Cess revaluation. Besides these six fines, totalling Rs. 1,703 were remitted by the Settlement Officer with sanction of the Commissioner without appeal being filed

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR *to question No. 7 (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHERESWAR RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1916, showing result of appeals.*

	Number.	APPEAL ALLOWED.		FINE REDUCED.			Fine upheld.	REMARKS
		Number.	Amount.	Number.	From—	To—		
			Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Heard by Settlement Officer—Civil Procedure Code, Order XVI, Rule 12, and Survey Act.	9	1	300	2	200	40	6	
Heard by Commissioner—Section 58, Bengal Tenancy Act, and Cess and Survey Act.	18	1	50	12	515	145	5	One of Rs. 500 and four of Rs. 10 each
Heard by Settlement Officer—Civil Procedure Code.	5*	...	...	5	2,050	450	...	
Allowed by Commissioner, but upheld and restored by Board	1	...	...	1	50	20	...	
Total ...	33	2	350	20	2,815	655	11	

* On a subsequent motion to the High Court the balance of Rs. 450 was remitted and the fine set aside.

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :—

Cost of settlement operations in Rajshahi.

*** 8. (*a*) Is it a fact that the cost of settlement operations in the district of Rajshahi, under various heads, is much in excess of that in the districts of Mymensingh, Dacca and Midnapore?**

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by them to check the apparent excessive expenditure in Rajshahi?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) The cost of settlement operations per square mile in Rajshahi district is expected to be higher than in Mymensingh and Midnapore and lower than in Dacca.

(*b*) Variations in the cost of settlement operations depend chiefly on the number of plots and the number of interests per square mile and on the extent of coparcenary among the owners of the various interests. In view of the conditions prevailing in Rajshahi district Government do not consider the estimated cost excessive. Government are satisfied that the Director of Land Records and the Settlement Officer have due regard to economy and Government do not propose to take any special measures in Rajshahi district."

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :-

Excess recording of *khatians* in the district of Rajshahi.

*** 9. (*a*) Is it a fact that the number of *khatians* recorded in the name of the Government in the district of Rajshahi is proportionately far in excess of that in any other district undergoing settlement operations?**

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the cause of this excess in Rajshahi?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) Government are not prepared to compile the statistics which would be necessary in order to give a reply to this question on the ground that their utility would not be commensurate with the labour thereby involved

(*b*) If the *khatians* recorded in the name of Government are numerous in Rajshahi the reason is that the interests of Government are numerous."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :-

Infantile mortality in Calcutta and suburbs.

*** 10. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the general birth-rate and death-rate, and also the rate of infantile mortality in the town of Calcutta for the last five years?**

(*b*) What are the corresponding figures—

(i) for Howrah;

(ii) for Cossipur-Chitpur, Maniktolla and other suburban areas, and

(iii) for the rest of the Province?

(*c*) What are the causes to which this abnormal infantile mortality in Calcutta is ordinarily ascribed?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing a committee of experts, both officials and non-officials, to investigate the matter?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :-

" (*a*) & (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) The chief causes of infantile mortality in Calcutta are respiratory diseases, debility at birth, premature birth and tetanus neonatorum. For a full analysis of the causes the Hon'ble Member is referred to the annual reports of the Health Department of the Calcutta Corporation.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD, *in his answer to Question No. (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY, *at the Cou Meeting of the 4th September, 1916.*

MUNICIPALITY.	BIRTH RATE.					DEATH RATE.					INFANT MORTALITY. (Proportion per cent. to total num births).			
	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913	1914.	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Calcutta	21·77	21·67	20·51	19·40	18·50	27·22	28·13	29·22	28·38	28·55	25·16	23·96	27·48	28·27
Howrah	22·21	20·05	20·05	2[illegible]·53	22·01	24·15	25·17	30·54	35·75	33·03	27·32	27·82	29·57	31·10
Cossipore-Chitpur...	14·86	16·35	16·64	16·79	18·72	28·35	33·83	35·63	29·10	30·63	37·98	41·87	39·09	34·48
Maniktolla	17·12	13·44	13·74	12·62	12·88	37·32	39·96	3[illegible]·36	34·55	38·18	50·70	57·39	55·61	56·84
South Suburban	30·44	23·46	23·40	26·72	25·11	23·19	23·18	22·76	19·91	20·25	16·97	19·72	16·66	14·70
Tollygunge	23·49	20·50	16·65	18·33	20·28	15·73	16·32	16·00	10·74	17·08	13·85	15·87	15·63	8·80
Garden Reach	19·82	17·55	16·84	17·52	16·93	23·90	26·62	25·18	28·12	24·55	22·71	25·28	23·85	18·26
Baranagar	17·87	16·56	16·58	14·40	22·24	21·12	24·75	26·10	28·53	38·23	19·43	22·37	20·97	20·32
Towns in the rest of the Province.	22·15	20·55	18·11	17·45	16·87	20·20	21·61	21·30	21·09	20·85	Figures not available.	21·10	20·68	21·19

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

* 11. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Light Railway is going to be closed? If so, when?

(*b*) What are the considerations that have influenced a decision in this connection?

(*c*) Are the Government aware of the local feeling that is opposed to the carrying out of this measure?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

(*a*) and (*b*). No decision has yet been arrived at in the matter.

(*c*) The reply is in the affirmative.

By the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR :—

* 12. (*a*) Has any general scheme for improving the drainage of the suburban areas round Calcutta and also for the supply of filtered water to the residents of these areas been prepared?

(*b*) If no general scheme has been prepared, has any scheme for any particular area been prepared or is any such scheme under preparation?

(*c*) If so, is the execution of such scheme to be taken up at an early date?

(*d*) If no scheme is ready, or in contemplation, will the Government kindly state what recommendations for the supply of pure drinking water to these areas have been made by the Sanitary Conference that met at Darjeeling in the year 1913 and what effect has been given to them?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to improve the sanitary condition of the above areas during the last five years?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" (*a*) No general scheme of improvement of the drainage of the suburban areas outside the Calcutta municipal boundary has been prepared.

A general scheme for the water-supply of the Municipalities between Calcutta and Kanchrapara has been prepared and is under the consideration of Government.

(*b*) The following schemes have been prepared for particular areas :—

Water-supply.

Garden Reach	... ...	(Improvement) sketch project.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Manicktollah	... ...	Sketch project.
Cossipur-Chitpur	... ...	Sketch project with details for certain areas.
Kamarhati	... ...	Sketch project.
Panihati	... ...	Sketch project.
North Dum-Dum	... ..	Sketch project.
Tollygunge	... ...	Sketch project.
South Suburban	... ...	Sketch project.
Garden Reach	... ...	Sketch project with details for part of the areas.

(*c*) The execution of these schemes depends mainly on the initiative of the local authorities, and on the restoration of normal financial conditions.

(*d*) A copy of Resolution No. 1518 L.S.-G., dated the 11th November, 1912, reviewing the proceedings of the Sanitary Conference at Darjeeling which was held in 1912 is laid on the table. It did not deal with the water-supply of the suburban areas round Calcutta.

(*e*) The following works have been completed within the last five years :—

Howrah.—Surface drainage of several blocks. Extension of water-supply scheme partially completed and brought into operation.

South Suburban Municipality.—Improvement and extension of water-supply.

Baranagore.—Surface drainage scheme partly comlpetcd.

Garden Reach—Surface drainage scheme under construction and partly completed."

By the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR :—

Regulation of traffic in Calcutta streets.

* 13. (*a*) Are the Government aware that great inconvenience is caused to the public for want of proper traffic regulation in some of the crowded thoroughfares in the town of Calcutta, specially in the area bounded on the north by Sova Bazar Street, on the south by Harrison Road, on the west by Strand Road and on the east by Chitpur Road?

(*b*) What steps (if any) have the Government in contemplation to remove the inconvenience complained of?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) Government are aware that the staff at the disposal of the Commissioner of Police is inadequate to secure a completely satisfactory regulation of the traffic in the Northern part of Calcutta. The Commissioner of Police is now working out a scheme for an increase in the Traffic Police establishment, and additions will be made to the staff as soon as financial conditions permit."

By the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR :—

Cart nuisance Calcutta

* 14. (*a*) Are the Government aware that in several parts of Barabazar and Jorabagan, the carts and bullocks having no proper stable, are quartered in streets and footpaths of Calcutta, creating great obstruction to traffic and inconvenience and nuisance to the public?

(*b*) What steps (if any) are the Government taking in this matter?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) The question of the stabling of carts and bullocks in the Barabazar and Jorabagan sections has for some time been under the consideration of the Commissioner of Police in consultation with the Corporation and the Port Commissioners. Pending a final settlement, instructions have been issued to the patrol police to prevent the inconvenience and obstruction to traffic so far as possible."

By the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR :—

Internments under the Defence of India Act.

* 15. (*a*) What inquiries are made in each case upon the receipt of a Police report made against a person under the Defence of India Act and by what officer is the order of internment issued?

(*b*) Is the person reported against offered an opportunity of giving an explanation of the charges made against him?

(*c*) In suspected cases, is a previous warning issued to parents or guardians?

(*d*) In cases, where the bread-winner of the family is interned, is any provision made by Government for the maintenance of the family?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) Full inquiries are made in the case of each suspect by gazetted police officers. The order of internment is passed under the authority of Government, over the signature of a Secretary to Government.

(*b*) The reply is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The reply is in the negative.

(*d*) Whenever applications are received, they are examined. The policy followed by Government is to consider in each case what the earnings of a *détenu* were and what resources are left to the family. When the absence of the *détenu* has rendered his family unable to obtain the necessaries of life, Government are prepared to consider the question of contributing to the maintenance of the family."

By the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR :—

Strike of students in the Sibpur Engineering College.

* 16. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement detailing the circumstances which led to the recent strike of students in the Sibpur Engineering College and the order of expulsion passed upon them by the College authorities?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing a committee to inquire into the matter?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

"(*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the communication made by the Principal of the College to the Press on the 27th July last. A copy of that communication is laid on the table.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative."

Communication referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL *to Question No. 16 (starred) asked by the* Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR *at the Council meeting of the 4th September, 1916.*

Owing to a general strike of students in the Engineering and Apprentice Departments of the Sibpur Civil Engineering College, the College has been practically closed. There are 73 students on the roll in the Civil Engineering Department, of whom three are Europeans and one Muhammadan, who have not joined the strike. In the Apprentice Department, the students number 160, of whom 40 are Europeans and Muhammadans, who have held aloof from the strike.

The trouble started on Saturday, the 22nd July, when Babu Surendra Nath Dass, Lecturer in Surveying and Superintendent of the Hindu Students' Mess, informed Mr. B. Heaton, Principal of the College, that while he was out paying surprise visits to the students' quarters he was pelted with stones. The Superintendent, it is reported, on calling the roll, found that four students were missing from their seats, though they had not left the barracks. On Sunday morning the four students in question were informed that they had been rusticated for the remainder of the session, and were ordered to leave the College compound by the same evening. The four students were each given ten rupees, and left the College at noon. On Sunday afternoon the remaining Hindu students in the Engineering and Apprentice Departments put in a petition to the Principal, protesting against the order of explusion, from which the following extracts are taken :—

> " We, the students of the Apprentice and Engineering Departments, beg most respectfully to place before you the following facts for your favourable consideration. It appears that four students of the Apprentice Department have been rusticated for this session owing, it is alleged, to their absence at the surprise roll-call at 2 A.M. on July 21.
>
> I will be clear from what is stated below that under the circumstances they were in no way guilty and did not deserve the punishment awarded to them.
>
> Narendra Lal Guha Ray, one of the four students, had gone out of the room for a few minutes before the Superintendent visited it, and came back within a few minutes of his leaving. He was suffering from dysentery.
>
> Profulla Kumar Das Gupta had gone to witness the dramatic rehearsal, and slept in the library room where he was found by the Superintendent. The students never dreamt that they were going against rules as they were keeping within the barracks.
>
> Debendranath Chatterji had gone to bed at 11 P.M., as usual and got up a few minutes before the Superintendent visited his room.
>
> Susthri Kumar Bose attended the dramatic rehearsal, and after reciting his part, slept in the rehearsal room.
>
> We have laid out the case before you and beg to point out that none of the four students was given any chance of meeting the charge against him.
>
> Our firm conviction is that the students are innocent and that you will be pleased to consider their case not merely from the Superintendent's point of view. We consider you as our guardian, and so we have approached you with the application.
>
> The relations between the Superintendent and the students are not very cordial, and he is trying his level best to punish the students for the most trifling of offences. He is given to threatening students with punishment in season and out of season."

The same night the Principal intimated to the students, through the Superintendent, that he might reconsider the case if the names of the culprits who actually threw the stones were made known to him, but on Monday morning the monitors informed the Superintendent that the students had been unable to find the alleged culprits, and being thus unable to comply with the Principal's suggestion they had declared a general strike. The following orders were then issued by the Principal :—

> " The third and fourth year engineers and those of the second year engineers who are exempted from the smith shop test must leave the barrack at once.

Those students of the Apprentice and first and second year Engineering Departments who do not join the works at 8 A.M. to-morrow will cease to be members of this College."

The following notice was issued on the 25th July :—

"No meals will be served in the Hindu students' mess after mid-day to-day without my permission."

B. HEATON,
Principal.

The Governing Body of the College met on the 25th July at Writers' Buildings and subsequently the following notices were issued :—

"The Governing Body view with grave disfavour the action of the Hindu students in abstaining in a body from classes and shops and in disobeying the Principal's orders.

They order that no readmissions be made to the College before November 1916, and then only with their permission. Individual applications addressed to the Secretary of the Governing Body at the Civil Engineering College will be received at any time from the guardians of the students desiring readmission. In deciding such applications their present and future behaviour will be taken into account.

Scholarships and reduced fee-ships are forfeited."

B. HEATON,
Secretary, Governing Body.

Students will be informed by letter what refund will be given to each after deducting all College dues and laboratory and other breakages.

Those that leave to-day (Tuesday) will be granted a refund of the balance of their July mess and for August and September.

Students that live in Calcutta and neighbourhood must leave as directed.

I await applications from those living at a distance for permission to remain.

B. HEATON,
Principal.

Most of the students referred to left Calcutta for their homes on Tuesday afternoon.

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

ervatory ijeeling.

* 17. (*a*) Is it a fact that certain residents of Darjeeling, consisting of Tibetans, Bhutias, Sikkimese, Nepalese, Marwaris, Bengalis and up-country Hindus, protested at a public meeting held on the 25th July, 1916, against some of the provisions of the draft rules proposed under the Bengal Public Parks Act, 1904 (Bengal Act II of 1904), relating to Observatory Hill, on the ground that they are calculated to interfere with the *pujas* and religious observances at the Mahakalasthan on the said hill, and submitted, through the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, a memorial on the subject to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal on the 31st July, 1916?

(*b*) If this is so will the Government be pleased to state what effect has been given to the said representation?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" A memorial has been received and will receive due consideration."

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

Passenger traffic between Sara and Ishurdi.

* 18. With reference to the reply given to my Question No. II (unstarred) at the Council Meeting of the 7th August last, will the Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the desirability of utilizing the existing line between Sara and Ishurdi for passenger traffic, in addition to the goods traffic which is already going on?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

" It has been ascertained that at present the Steamer Companies are unable to establish a regular steamer service between Rampore-Boalia and Sara, owing to a large number of their steamers having been taken for Government service in connection with the war. It would, therefore, be useless at present to establish a train service for passengers between Sara and Ishurdi. Both the Steamer Companies and the Eastern Bengal Railway will be willing to consider the proposal favourably as soon as normal conditions are restored."

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

Railway communication in Pabna.

* 19. With reference to the reply given to my Question No. III (unstarred) at the Council Meeting of the 7th August last, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that a line has already been sanctioned which will pass through Pabna, and, if so, is there any chance of its being completed in the near future?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

" The Railway Board have sanctioned a detailed survey being carried out by the Eastern Bengal Railway for a line of railway from Ishurdi on the Eastern Bengal Railway to Sadhuganj *vid* Pabna. The final decision of the Railway Board is awaited."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(*the answers to which were laid on the table.*)

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Muhammadans in the Upper Subordinate posts in the Public Works Department.

I. Will the Government be pleased to state the number of appointments in the Upper Subordinate establishment of the Public Works Department and the number of Muhammadans holding such appointments?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

" The number of appointments in the Upper Subordinate establishment of the Public Works Department of this Presidency is 71. One of those appointments is at present held by a Muhammadan."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Non-closing of public offices at Suri during the *Id-ul-Fitr* festival.

II. Are the Government aware that the Courts and public offices (Executive) at Suri were not closed on Wednesday, the 2nd August, the day on which Muhammadans of Suri celebrated the *Id-ul-Fitr* festival, the moon not being visible at Suri on the previous Monday?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" The Criminal Courts and Executive public offices at Suri were not closed on Wednesday, 2nd August. Muhammadan employees were excused attendance on that date till 1 P.M."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Closing of the level crossing gate at village Conarpara in Burdwan.

III. Are the Government aware that the East Indian Railway authorities have closed the level crossing gate No. 43 at mile 57, in front of village Conarpara, in thana Satgachia, in the district of Burdwan, and that great inconvenience is thereby felt by the residents of that and other neighbouring villages, and especially by the cultivators?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"The level crossing at gate No. 43 has been closed and turnstiles provided instead. This was done with the concurrence of the District Magistrate, as there is no road or pathway, but only cultivated fields, at the place in question."

By the Hon'ble MR. K. B. DUTT :—

Famine in Bankura.

IV. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent by Government on gratuitous relief, agricultural loans and test relief works in the present famine in the district of Bankura up to last June?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state in how many unions the Government have opened relief works, what is the total population of these unions and how many persons are now employed on test works?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the nature of these test works, and what are the rates of wages given at these works?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government or the District Board dug any wells or tanks in the course of relief operations? If so, how many and in what places?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state what are the classes of people most affected by the famine and what are their occupations, if any?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of introducing handicrafts, which are natural to the district, in places where they do not exist, as a second means of livelihood for the people?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any private organizations still engaged in relief work?

(*h*) Are the Government in a position to state the prospects of agriculture in Bankura this year?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) The following expenditure has been incurred in Bankura district from the beginning of the period of distress until the end of June, 1916 :—

	Rs.
Gratuitous relief . . .	2,64,000
Relief works	3,91,000
Loans under the Agriculturists Loans Act ..	8,34,777
Loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act .	2,17,744

(*b*) Relief works were opened in 116 unions, the total population of these unions being 600,292. Eight thousand one hundred and seventy-one people were employed on relief works during the week ending August 19, 1916.

(*c*) The relief works consist mainly of the construction and repair of roads, and the construction and reconstruction of tanks and irrigation channels. The rates of wages are from 3 to 4 annas per 100 cubic feet for earthwork on roads according to the nature of the soil, and from 3 to 9 annas per 100 cubic feet for earthwork in tanks and channels according to the lead and lift

(*d*) In the course of the relief operations 62 tanks have been excavated or re-excavated; 45 masonry wells and about 200 temporary wells have been

sunk; and 32½ miles of irrigation channels have been constructed or reconstructed. These works were carried out partly by Government direct and partly by the District Board from Government grants. The works are situated in all parts of the district.

(*e*) The classes of people most affected by the famine are cultivators, weavers, agricultural labourers and beggars; also poor people who are not accustomed to manual labour or will not resort to relief works owing to caste prejudices.

(*f*) Government have not before them any proposal to introduce handicrafts in parts of Bankura where they do not exist. Weavers and other artisans are, however, being relieved in their own trades. Mr. Tindall's Committee has found continuous work for more than 2,000 families of weavers and has already obtained orders for their outturn to the extent of nearly a lakh of rupees. It is hoped that the weavers will profit in future by the new markets which have been opened to them.

(*g*) The following private organizations are still engaged in relief work:—

(1) Bankura Wesleyan College.
(2) Social Service League.
(3) Ram Krishna Mission.
(4) Bankura Sanmilani.
(5) Nursing Brotherhood.
(6) Marwari Samiti.
(7) Bama Mission.

(*h*) The agricultural prospects this year in Bankura are most satisfactory."

By the Hon'ble MR. K. B. DUTT:—

Dr. Bentley's anti-malarial scheme.

V. Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing a Board of Sanitary Experts, consisting of official and non-official members, to supervise the experiment of flooding selected areas proposed to be undertaken in accordance with Dr. Bentley's scheme?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD:—

"The answer is in the negative."

By the Hon'ble MR. K. B. DUTT:—

Alleged insanitary condition of Midnapore.

VI. (*a*) Are the Government aware that Midnapore was considered a sanatorium about twenty years ago and that for the last ten years the district has been subject to the ravages of cholera, malaria, small-pox, dysentery and other virulent diseases?

(*b*) What action (if any) are the Government taking to improve the sanitation of the town and the various subdivisions?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD:—

"(*a*) A comparison of the death-rate for the years 1885 to 1895 with that for the years 1905 to 1915, details of which are laid on the table, tends to show that there has been an improvement in the health of the town of Midnapore. As regards the district of Midnapore, the mortality both in 1915 and in the preceding quinquennium was below the provincial average, while an increase of population was recorded at the census of 1911.

(*b*) No special action has been taken by Government, as the health of both the town and district compares favourably with that of many others. A water-supply scheme for the town has been under consideration for some time, and a drainage scheme has been prepared."

Statement referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *to Question No. VI (unstarred) asked by the* Hon'ble MR. K. B. DUTT, *at the Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1916, showing the ratio of deaths per mille of population in the town of Midnapore.*

YEAR.	Cholera.	Fever.	Small-pox.	Dysentery.	Plague.	Total.
1885	4·26	7·00	...	3·96	...	25·71
1886	1·51	6·85	·08	3·06	...	21·54
1887	·95	7·03	...	4·46	...	19·45
1888	1·69	5·27	...	3·00	...	20·35
1889	1·01	5·12	·05	6·01	...	21·51
1890	1·87	5·51	·98	5·09	...	23·98
1891	3·87	7·87	8·95	4·77	...	38·08
1892	14·07	17·72	·09	5·23	...	42·71
1893	1·02	16·51	...	5·20	...	30·40
1894	6·53	16·27	...	8·86	...	40·26
1895	3·75	18·06	·09	6·64	...	35·79
1905	1·81	21·01	·06	4·01	·03	40·13
1906	3·86	26·01	·24	3·89	...	40·22
1907	6·30	20·18	·33	4·94	...	39·19
1908	8·90	19·28	1·59	5·09	...	41·48
1909	1·08	14·57	1·38	2·62	...	25·79
1910	·51	14·18	·09	3·13	...	24·98
1911	2·32	13·01	·03	3·29	·03	23·88
1912	2·13	18·14	·03	2·71	...	27·48
1913	1·06	14·32	·61	2·96	...	22·66
1914	1·46	10·96	·36	3·14	...	19·08
1915	1·52	7·57	3·42	2·53	...	18·57

By the Hon'ble MR. K. B. DUTT :—

Amount spent on the construction of public buildings in Bengal.

VII. Is it a fact that Government have spent a large sum of money in the construction of public buildings in various districts in Bengal since August, 1914? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the amount spent?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"A sum of Rs. 56,35,159 has been spent under the head 'Civil buildings, Original works,' from August, 1914, to end of June, 1916, the latest date up to which accounts have been completed. A large portion of this expenditure was incurred on works which were already in progress when the war began."

By the Hon'ble MR. K. B. DUTT :—

Lodgings for Munsifs in the subdivisions of Eastern Bengal.

VIII. Is it a fact that Munsifs find considerable difficulty in obtaining lodgings for themselves in the subdivisions of Eastern Bengal, and, if so, are the Government taking any steps to provide them with suitable lodgings as is done in the case of Subdivisional Officers?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"Government are aware that difficulty is experienced by Munsifs in securing suitable residences in many stations in Eastern Bengal as well as in other parts of the Province. For some years past, Government have been building quarters for Munsifs at places where they are unable to obtain

suitable houses. The number of quarters already built is 104, and a comprehensive building programme has been drawn up and is being carried out as rapidly as is possible with the funds available."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Organization of Union Committees.

IX. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) What progress has been made to give effect to the report of the District Administration Committee of 1913-14 regarding the organization of Union Committees?

(*ii*) What steps have been taken by them to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission upon Decentralization in India and the District Administration Committee regarding the duties and powers of these Union Panchayats with special reference to village sanitation?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" (*i*) & (*ii*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraph 1 of the Resolution of this Government, No. 2993 L.S.-G., dated the 29th December, 1915, reviewing the working of District Boards during the year 1914-15, and to the answer given to Question No. XXIV at the Council Meeting held on the 7th August, 1916

A Bill has been drafted in accordance with the recommendations of the District Administration Committee on the subject of village self-government and is now under the consideration of this Government."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

District Boards and the utilization of the Public Works Cess.

X. Are the Government considering the desirability of asking the District Boards to explain their reasons for not utilising a substantial portion of the Public Works Cess transferred to them for the sanitation of villages and small towns, for the improvement of water-supply and for anti malarial operations?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" The question is engaging the attention of Government "

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Sanitation in and the proposed partition of the Halisahar Municipality.

XI. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Sanitary Inspection Report of the Halisahar Municipality in the district of the 24-Parganas by Captain A. M. Jukes, M.D., D.P.H., I.M.S., Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Presidency Circle?

(*b*) Are the Government contemplating the postponement of the partition of the said Municipality for the present?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" (*a*) A copy is laid on the table.

(*b*) No proposals for the partition of the Municipality have been submitted to Government."

Copy of the Sanitary Inspection Report referred to by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *in his answer to question No. XI (unstarred) asked by the* Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR *at the Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1916.*

Sanitary Inspection Report of the Halisahar Municipality by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Presidency Circle.

I VISITED Halisahar on 8th July, 1914, and was met at the station by the Vice-Chairman and one of the Commissioners who both accompanied me throughout my inspection.

The municipality was last inspected by a Deputy Sanitary Commissioner about three years ago, and the report then written would only require amending in a few minor details to make it completely applicable to the condition of affairs as I found it in the course of my inspection. That report was on the whole adverse, and I regret to report that there has been little or no progress or improvement in the interval. It is difficult to say whether the blame for this can be attached to anyone or whether it is mainly due to adverse circumstances: I am inclined to think the truth probably lies between these two extremes. The town shows evidences of a past prosperity now departed; there are many large *pucca* houses now falling into ruins and overgrown with jungle.

The inspection booklet had again been only very partially filled up before my arrival, thereby causing a good deal of waste of time in asking questions the answers to which should have been ready for me.

The area of the municipality is about 8 square miles.

The population is given as 13,423 of whom 5,052 are females, and 8,371 males, the disproportion being apparently due to the presence in the municipality of the Loco. and Carriage works of Eastern Bengal State Railway and the Naihati Jute Mill.

The income is given as Rs. 17,966: this, however, is much larger than normal, and is accounted for by the Government acquiring a piece of land at a cost of Rs. 4,771.

The opening balance was Rs. 3,633.

The expenditure on sanitation is given as Rs. 5,985, accounted for as follows:—

	Rs.		Rs.
Road cleaning	2,315	Water-supply	220
Public latrines	256	Disposal of dead	8
Private „	2,970	Vaccination	104
Drainage	60	All other sanitary expenses ...	62

In addition to these sums Rs. 955 were contributed to the dispensary, and Rs. 4,230 were spent on road construction and repairs, which, if added to the previous items, makes a total of Rs. 11,170. The large expenditure on roads is accounted for by an annual contribution of about Rs. 500 to the District Board for the upkeep of certain roads within the municipality, and because in the year under review the municipality handed over to the District Board another road and paid a lump sum of Rs. 2,500 for its upkeep in future.

Roads.—There are 13 miles of metalled and 16 miles of unmetalled roads in the municipality. Those that I saw were in good order, with the exception of that leading south from Mondal Market which needed repairs badly.

Water-supply.—The paragraph relating to water-supply in the last sanitary report might be copied out verbatim here, and would be true in every detail. There has been no improvement or progress during the last three years, or as that report shows during the previous five years. Part of Ward I receives a filtered supply of water from the Naihati Jute Mill, part of Ward IV from the railway workshops, but the remainder of these

two wards and the whole of Wards II and III depend on the river Hooghly, and perhaps some tanks. There is a reserved tank in Ward II, but it is practically unused, being too far from the inhabited portions of the town. If the scheme for the supply of filtered water to all the riparian municipalities comes into effect, Halisahar will presumably be included in the scheme, so I do not now advise anything to be done which will involve a large expenditure. It is a pity, however, that the Commissioners have shown so little appreciation of the value of a good water-supply that they have taken no steps to carry out the recommendations made three years ago. Much may be done to improve the condition of many insanitary tanks, and notices should be served on their owners to compel them to keep them clean and free from weeds.

Drainage.—As one of the Commissioners said to me "the condition of the drains is deplorable." Some of the mill coolie-lines and parts of the railway property are provided with *pucca* drains; in the rest of the town drains are non-existent, or consist of irregular stretches of weed-choked ditches. Here again the remarks in the last report would apply almost without alteration. I understand that the whole municipality has been surveyed, and that a complete drainage scheme is under preparation in the Sanitary Engineer's office. From what I saw of the condition of the town, I much fear that the cost of this scheme will prove to be very great; if it does at first sight appear to be prohibitive, I hope the Commissioners will not on that account simply put it on one side as impossible. They should seriously consider whether some portion of it cannot be carried out, leaving the less important parts till a later date. Some of the *khals* into which the drainage is supposed to run need attention, but no doubt they will be dealt with in the Sanitary Engineer's scheme. The bottom of the culvert where the Komar Khal runs out to the river is higher than parts of the bed of the *khal* higher up. The Bager Khal also is said to have a very poor flow.

Conservancy.—Here again the last report would apply quite well now, with some important additions. There are still only two municipal latrines, both situated in Ward IV. One is masonry and apparently little used, presumably partly because it is in wet weather situated in the middle of a marsh, and partly because the railway septic tanks are at no great distance. In any case its pattern is bad. The other is situated in the neighbourhood of the municipal market, and the surroundings were kept by no means clean.

Near-by the railway authorities are erecting a new iron latrine. I cannot approve of its situation. It is being built on a *pucca* foundation which at this point forms one of the retaining walls of a large drain, which throughout most of its course is *kutcha* and through which there is a considerable flow of water. The temptation for mehtars to empty buckets into the drain will be great, and in any case washings and liquids are bound to find their way into the drain. Unfortunately building regulations are not in force in the municipality, so the Commissioners are helpless, and cannot take steps to have the latrine removed or to prevent the occurrence of similar events in future.

The Naihati Jute Mill has come to an arrangement with the municipality by which it pays no latrine-tax, but manages its own conservancy arrangements. I visited one of its coolie-lines which had obviously been built some years, but there was no latrine accommodation as far as I could see in these particular lines. There was plenty of jungle about, so presumably the coolies used the jungle instead. This is most unsatisfactory. I understand that the municipal authorities have recently acquired an iron latrine and propose to erect it close to these lines. This is about the only attempt they have made to carry out the recommendations made in the last report, viz., that latrines should be provided in Wards II and III, and even in this case the latrine is not yet in evidence. I also visited the mill trenching-ground; it was in a most unsatisfactory condition. There were a number of trenches of varying ages, all of which were full to the brim with night-soil, without any attempt having been made apparently to cover it with

earth. I would suggest that the Municipal Overseer should inspect the mill trenching-ground at intervals of about a week, though not always on the same day, and should draw the attention of the Chairman to any irregularities. If the mill authorities cannot manage and supervise their conservancy arrangements satisfactorily, it would be much better that they should hand them over to the municipality, and pay latrine-fees in the ordinary way.

The municipality is divided into two circles for conservancy purposes, each of which has its own trenching-ground. One circle consists of Wards I and II, and the trenching-ground was in fairly good order, some of the trenches, however, had certainly been filled too full. Three inches of night-soil is ample in the wet weather in a trench 12 inches deep, and the other dimensions of the trench should be such that one cart-load will not fill the trench to a greater depth than 3 inches: it should then be immediately filled in with earth. The other trenching-ground for Circle II (Wards III and IV) was not in nearly such good order. There was a tiny patch of ground cleared in the middle of dense jungle, all the trenches had been filled far too full, and were breeding immense numbers of flies. It is quite time this plot was given up; some of the adjoining jungle should be cleared and trenching carried out on the cleared patch, the present plot being at the same time placed under cultivation. I was given to understand that a piece of land is leased for trenching and when it is used up a new site is leased, and the first one returned to the owner for cultivation. This may be the case in Circle I trenching-ground, as the neighbourhood is open and cultivable, but there is no evidence of cultivation at the Circle II trenching-ground, the whole place being densely covered with jungle.

Scavenging.—There are now a number of dustbins in various parts of the town, but there seemed to be still no system in the disposal of the rubbish collected. Rubbish seemed to be dumped down anywhere and everywhere, quite irrespective of whether there were hollows to be filled up or not. *e.g.*, I saw numerous collections of rubbish which had been dumped near the river side, though at some distance from the water's edge. It thus remained by the road side to breed flies. If rubbish is going to be disposed of by dumping into hollows some hollow should be selected which requires filling, and all rubbish should be deposited into this hollow till it is full, each day's rubbish being covered with earth or ashes, and a final layer of earth, if possible, or failing that, ashes should be placed over the whole. A commencement should then be made on another hollow.

Markets.—The remarks made three years ago still apply absolutely The one *pucca* market, a private one near the jute mill, is quite a good building, but is still very dirty, especially at the eastern end which, I understand, is used as a cowshed. The result is that the floor is covered with mud and filth. I had considerable difficulty in assuring myself that the market possessed drains at all, but I did at last find that there had been *pucca* drains which were completely filled and covered with mud and rubbish. The whole market and the drains should be cleaned and then kept clean by being thoroughly washed down with water after every market day. The remaining markets, three private and one municipal, all have *kutcha* floors; the latter has a corrugated-iron roof. No effort seems to have been made to improve the floors of any of these markets during the last eight years.

The Mondal Market, a private one, is *kutcha*, and the meat on sale was swarming with flies. Meat and fish sellers in all markets should be compelled to keep their wares covered with muslin if not with some more permanent protection. The hydrant close to this market was converting the adjoining land into a marsh. The waste water from hydrants should always be led, preferably by a *pucca* channel, into the nearest drain.

Disposal of dead.—There does not seem to be any regular burning ghât, but every bathing ghât is used for that purpose. It would be much better, if possible, to have one or more authorized burning ghâts, and arrange to have information given at the municipal office of all cremations. This

would enable a check to be kept on the vital statistics. Some Muhammadans are said to bury their dead in their own compounds; this custom should be strictly prohibited, and legal proceedings should be taken against any who break any regulations drawn up on the subject. The use of the authorized burial grounds should be insisted on.

Vital statistics.—The registration of births and deaths is almost certainly incomplete. I found a record of two children under one year old registered as deaths, of whose birth I could find no record during the previous twelve months' birth registers. In view of the large floating population, this does not necessarily indicate a failure to register in these particular instances, but the birth and death rates show that there must be many omissions. A death-rate of 24 per 1,000 and a birth-rate of 18 per 1,000 are far too low even taking into consideration the small proportion of females in the population. I should think the actual births and deaths approach much more nearly to about 27 and 30—35 per 1,000, respectively. Energetic steps should be taken to secure more accurate returns.

Jungle.—The whole town is overgrown with thick jungle except some of the less inhabited parts near the railway, and the more or less densely populated part near the railway works. Owners of land should be compelled, by legal methods, if necessary, to keep their property clear of jungle, and the Municipal Commissioners should set a good example both in regard to municipal and private property.

I was given to understand that the inhabitants of Bijpur, chiefly railway employés, are agitating to have Ward IV or part of it separated from the rest of the municipality, and formed into a new municipality. No doubt this would be better from their point of view, as they would then be comparatively wealthy, and with a very small area to be looked after. It would be very hard lines, however, on the rest of the municipality which would be left completely poverty-stricken and helpless. I am not at all sure that this separation would be a wise step, especially as the present Commissioners from Ward IV do not seem to exercise much supervision over matters now within their jurisdiction, *e.g.*, in the matter of the trenching-ground in Circle II, the market latrine near the municipal market, and the unsatisfactory position of the new latrine being erected near-by, and there is no proof that they would work any better if they had a new municipality of their own.

A. M. JUKES, M.D., D.P.H., CAPT., I.M.S.,
Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Presidency Circle.

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR:—

XII. (*a*) Is it a fact that there is no hostel for Indian students attached to the Calcutta Medical College (the only institution of its kind in Bengal)? Hostel for medical students, Calcutta.

(*b*) Are the Government contemplating taking any steps to erect such a hostel?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. DONALD:—

"(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Government are contemplating the erection of a hostel and a rough scheme has been prepared. Financial considerations preclude further progress with the scheme at present."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR:—

XIII. (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the circular letter, dated the 1st July, 1916, regarding college messes, issued by the Calcutta University to affiliated colleges? College messes and the University Circular.

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether it has been modified in favour of students living with their guardians in private messes and boarding-houses?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

"(*a*) The attention of Government has been drawn to Circular No. M-18, dated the 1st June, 1916. Government know nothing of a circular dated 1st July, 1916.

(*b*) The Government of Bengal have no status in the matter except in so far as Government Colleges are concerned and they have no knowledge as to whether or not any modification has been made."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Tramway accidents near schools.

XIV. (*a*) Are the Government aware of the facts relating to the death of a young student while crossing the tram-car lines near the Scottish Churches Collegiate School in Calcutta.

(*b*) Are the Government taking any steps with a view to regulate the speed of tram-cars while passing schools and colleges at the end of the school hours, and to place traffic-police constables at these places to prevent a recurrence of such accidents?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) The Commissioner of Police reports that no incident of the kind occurred, but that on the 15th July a boy of 12 years of age was knocked down by a motor-car in Cornwallis Street and was caught on the guard of a tram-car which was passing at the time. The injuries received by the boy were slight and he has now completely recovered. The usual inquiry was held and showed that the occurrence was a pure accident. It did not take place in front of or near any school or college.

(*b*) Government do not think it necessary to take any action of the nature suggested."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Prevention of the adulteration of food.

XV. Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken to prevent adulteration of articles of human consumption, as referred to in the Annual Report of the Chemical Examiner's Department, Bengal, for 1915?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"The question of the adequacy of the present provisions of the law to prevent the adulteration of food and drugs has been under the consideration of Government for some time. It is proposed to deal with the question, so far as municipal areas are concerned, when the Calcutta Municipal Act and the Bengal Municipal Act are amended. Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors have been appointed in municipal towns, one of whose duties is the systematic inspection of food supplies. A copy of the revised rules on the subject is laid on the table."

Model Rules referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *to Question No. XV (unstarred) asked by the* Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR *at the Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1916.*

3 (*1*) The Health Officer shall regularly inspect the provisions exposed for sale in shops and in the market so that, if necessary, action may be taken under sections 250 and 251 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884.

(2) Whenever adequate facilities for chemical analysis are available, the Health Officer shall direct his Sanitary Inspectors to purchase, from time to time, samples of milk, ghee, or any other article of food exposed to sale, under section 251D, for the purpose of analysis and shall take action according to the results obtained from such analysis.

4. (1) Markets.—In the course of his round, the Sanitary Inspector must inspect all markets, buildings, shops, stalls or places used for the sale or storage of articles intended for food.

(2) If he finds in any market, building, shop, stall or place used for the sale or storage of articles intended for food, or as a slaughter-house, any articles which appear to be unfit for food, he must seize them and report the matter at once to the Medical Officer of Health (*Chairman of the Municipality) who will thereupon take suitable action under the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884.

In which there is no Medical Officer of Health

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR:—

XVI. (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Kadua math, in the Amta basin, in the district of Howrah, which covers an area of about 112½ square miles, is under water almost every year?

Inundation of the Kadua math

(*b*) Are the Government aware that this results in a scarcity of crops in the locality?

(*c*) Is it a fact that this inundation is due to the silting-up of the Kana Damodar, the Banspati khal, the Poorana khal, Nabin Babu's khal and such other canals as used to drain the maths formerly?

(*d*) What action (if any) are the Government taking for the effective drainage of this tract of land?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN:—

"(*a*) & (*b*) The area of the Amta drainage basin is estimated to cover about 128 square miles. It is understood that the Hon'ble Member refers specially to a portion of the central sub-basin. That sub-basin covers an area of about 07 square miles.

The Hon'ble Member is referred to sections (*i*) and (*ii*) of the answer given by the Hon'ble Mr. Finnimore to Question No. 12 asked by the Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray at the meeting of this Council on the 13th January, 1914

(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*d*) A scheme for the drainage of the Amta basin, including the area referred to by the Hon'ble Member, has been worked out and is estimated to cost Rs. 9,80,302.

Owing to present financial conditions, Government has not yet been able to take up the scheme."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR:—

XVII. (*a*) Are the Government aware of the facts regarding the tragic death of an Indian which occurred in the month of July, 1916, at Krishnagar City station?

Accident at the Krishnagar City station

(*b*) Is it a fact that the person was run over while crossing the railway lines to fetch water?

(*c*) Is it a fact that he was not able to get any water at the Krishnagar City station?

(*d*) Have Government caused an inquiry to be made into the matter by the local authorities?

(*e*) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the report showing the result of the investigation?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"(*a*) Yes. On 17th July, at Krishnagar City station, a woman named Sarup Bibi fell in front of a train and was seriously injured. Her husband, Ahmed Ali Malik, was killed by the train while trying to save her. The unfortunate woman was in an advanced state of pregnancy. She had never travelled in a train before. Seeing the engine, she became confused and fell in front of it.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) There is an ample supply of water on the platform where the woman was standing, and there is nothing except jungle on the other side of the line.

(*d*) An inquiry was held by the Railway authorities. A Deputy Magistrate, deputed by the District Magistrate, was present at the inquiry.

(*e*) A copy of the finding of the Committee of joint inquiry is laid on the table."

Finding of Committee of Joint inquiry referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN *to question No. XVII (unstarred) asked by the* Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR *at the Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1916.*

WE, the undersigned, having carefully considered all the evidence, do find that the woman being in a delicate state of health and never having travelled in a train before that day became confused and giddy and fell off the platform immediately in front of the engine and had her legs run over. Her husband jumped off the platform in the endeavour to save her and was run over and killed.

We find that this was a pure accident and that no one was to blame.

We find also that the driver had his train under proper control and that he could not have averted the accident.

R. C. GUPTA,	G. M. WELLS,	R. H. ASERAPPA,
D. T. S., C.	*A. L. O., C. A.*	*X. E. N., R. H. A., President.*

The 25th July, 1916.

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Admission of students in the Presidency College

XVIII. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of applications for admission into the Presidency College that were refused this year?

(*b*) to what districts did the applicants, who were refused admission, respectively belong?

(*c*) whether it is a fact that some students were refused admission on the ground that they belonged to a particular district or were *ex*-students of a particular institution?

(*d*) how many of the unsuccessful applicants were Muhammadans?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

"(*a*), (*b*) & (*d*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative."

Statement referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. HORNELL *to question No. XVIII (unstarred) asked by the* Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ, *at the Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1916.*

Classes.	Total number of [illegible]	Number of unsuccessful applicants according to localities							[illegible]
		Calcutta	Presidency Division.	Burdwan Division	Rajshahi Division	Dacca Division.	Chittagong Division.	Extra Provincial.	
First year Arts ...	148	48	15	15	17	19	7	27	32
Ditto Science ...	127	80	8	20	2	5	2	10	14
Third year Arts ...	162	85	5	17	11	10	8	26	8
Ditto Science ...	74	47	4	3	2	2	2	14	1
Fifth year ...	82	51	12	1	1	3	1	10	6
Total ...	593	314	44	56	33	39	20	87	61

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

XIX. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Calcutta University has issued a circular declaring that students living in unauthorised messes or hostels are debarred from admission into colleges or from sitting for University examinations? Lack of hostel accommodation for students.

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what provision (if any) is being made for students who are affected by this order?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

"(*a*) The Government understand that the University have issued circulars drawing attention to the conditions of residence which are required by the University Regulations.

(*b*) The Government of Bengal have no status in the matter except in so far as Government Colleges are concerned; the position as regards the residence students in these colleges is being investigated."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

XX. Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of Muhammadan students in Calcutta colleges and how many of these live— Muhammadan students in Calcutta

(*i*) with authorised guardians, or

(*ii*) in recognized messes or hostels?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

"A statement is laid on the table.

(*1*) Total number of Muhammadan students in Calcutta Colleges	745
(*2*) Total number of living with authorized guardians—	
(*a*) with parents	142
(*b*) with guardians other than parents...	286
Total ...	428
(*3*) Number living in recognised messes and hostels	317"

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ asked the following SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :—

"Are we to understand that all the Muhammadan college students living in Calcutta are living either with their parents, authorised guardians or in authorised messes or hostels?"

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA replied :—

"It will be found that there are altogether 715 students, and all of them are accounted for by the figures given. I think therefore it follows that all are living either with their parents or authorised guardians or in recognised hostels and messes."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said :—

"My information is that the number is 1,127 and not 745, and I will therefore follow the matter up with a further question : Is it not a fact that there are at least 4 Muhammadan students living in a hide godown at No. 31, Upper Circular Road, and living in the midst of strangers?"

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said —

"I would ask for notice of that question."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Unrecognised High Schools in Bengal

XXI. Will the Government be pleased to state, district by district,—

(*i*) the number of existing high schools which have failed to obtain recognition by the University, and

(*ii*) the reason or reasons for the refusing or withholding of such recognition?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

"(*i*) As stated in the reply given to Question No. 3 in the Council Meeting of 6th March, 1916, there are 99 High schools in the districts of Bengal which are not recognized by the University. It is not known how many of those schools have actually applied to the University for recognition. Information is not at present available as to the number of such schools in each district.

(*ii*) The recognition of high schools is a matter which is altogether within the power of the University, and the Bengal Government have no information on the subject."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Primary education in Bengal.

XXII. (*a*) Is it a fact that two officers of the Education Department were deputed about two years ago by the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction to study the problem of primary education and to work out a complete scheme of primary education in Bengal?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what was the scheme recommended by them?

(*c*) Was that scheme approved by the Government?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the report submitted by the two officers?

(*e*) Was that report considered by a conference of the inspecting officers of the Presidency?

(*f*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what were the recommendations of the conference?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the report of the said conference, if any?

(*h*) Has any scheme been formulated by the Government with regard to primary education in Bengal, including a curriculum and syllabuses on the basis or in consequence of such report and recommendations (if any)?

(*i*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the nature of the scheme and to lay on the table all such papers as may be sufficient to explain the scheme?

(*j*) Has any step been taken by the Government to give effect to such scheme?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. HORNELL :—

"An officer of the Education Department was deputed by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, in the year 1915 to prepare a scheme for the reorganization of primary education in Bengal. This officer worked in combination with one of the Inspectors of Schools. The proposals made by these two officers were considered by a conference of educational officers in November, 1915. Their report and the proceedings of the conference are under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, and have not yet been submitted to Government."

By the Hon'ble Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Lack of waiting rooms at Brahmanbaria station.

XXIII (*a*) Are the Government aware that there is no waiting room for the 1st and 2nd class passengers at Brahmanbaria station on the Assam-Bengal Railway line?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that *pardanashin* Indian ladies suffer great inconvenience for want of a waiting room for them at Brahmanbaria station?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the attention of the Railway authorities has repeatedly been drawn to these matters but without any effect?

(*d*) What steps (if any) are the Government taking to remove the grievances complained of?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. GREEN :—

"(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The question was considered by the Railway authorities in 1913, but it was found then that the number of 1st and 2nd class passengers at Brahmanbaria did not warrant the provision of special accommodation.

(*d*) The Local Government do not feel justified in moving in the matter."

By the Hon'ble Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Waiting rooms at Lakeham Akhaura station.

XXIV. (*a*) Are the Government aware that there are separate waiting-rooms for Europeans and Indians on the Assam-Bengal Railway, *e.g.*, at Laksham and Akhaura?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the waiting-rooms for Indians are very much worse than those for Europeans in situation, size, bath-room, furniture, cleanliness?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that this distinction is very much resented by Indians?

(*d*) Are the Government contemplating taking any steps to remove this distinction?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. GREEN :—

"(*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) No complaints regarding the Indian waiting-rooms have been received by this Government."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Lack of accommodation for intermediate and third class passengers on the Assam-Bengal Railway.

XXV. (*a*) Are the Government aware that accommodation for intermediate and 3rd class passengers is extremely inadequate on the Assam-Bengal Railway and that this causes great inconvenience to the passengers?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that there is no compartment for female passengers in the intermediate class on the Assam-Bengal Railway except only in the mail trains?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that, in view of the social custom of Hindus and Muhammadans, this causes great inconvenience to the female passengers?

(*d*) Are the Government taking any steps for the removal of this grievance?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Local Government are aware of the demands for increase and improvement in intermediate and 3rd class accommodation. Much has already been done to meet these demands, but further provision has been unavoidably postponed owing to the war."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Internments under the Defence of India Act.

XXVI. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to make a statement as to the number of persons in Bengal, since December, 1915, who have been dealt with under the provisions of Rule 3 of the Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules, 1915?

(*b*) What are the circumstances that generally determine as to whether in a particular instance action is to be taken under the Defence of India Rules?

(*c*) What are the main differences in the treatment accorded to a person dealt with under Bengal Regulation III of 1819 and under the Defence of India Rules?

(*d*) Is any inquiry made into the allegations in each particular instance before any action is taken by Government, if so, what is the character and process of such inquiry, and by whom and at what stage is it made?

(*e*) Are the charges or grounds of suspicion brought to the notice of the individual concerned, and is any opportunity given to him for explanation at any time?

(*f*) In how many instances were persons arrested and detained in custody, before being actually interned or deported?

(*g*) For what periods were they so detained?

(*h*) How many persons were let off after arrest?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) (*i*) From the time that the Defence of India Act was passed up till the 31st August, 1916, 321 persons have been dealt with under section 3; of these 257 since December, 1915. These numbers include absconders, persons subsequently dealt with under the ordinary law, and some who eventually became State prisoners.

(*ii*) In the same period 54 persons, of whom 3 have since been released, have been dealt with under Regulation III of 1818, of these 48 since December, 1915.

(*b*) The circumstances which decide Government are in the terms of Rule 3 of the Defence of India Rules—"Where in the opinion of the Local Government there are reasonable grounds for believing that any person has acted, is acting or is about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or the Defence of British India."

(*c*) The main difference is that persons dealt with under Regulation III of 1818 are confined in jail, whereas persons dealt with under the Defence of India Rules are domiciled in selected areas.

(*d*) Full inquiries are made in the case of each suspect by gazetted officers of the police. The inquiry is of an executive character. Orders of internment are not passed by Government until the papers of each case and all representations, if any, made by, or on behalf of, the suspect have been considered.

(*e*) The reply is in the affirmative.

(*f*) & (*g*) In practically all cases.

(*h*) Exclusive of Oraons, whose cases are quite separate, 18 persons have been released. Of these 1 was subsequently expelled from the Province."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Statistics relating to persons charged and arrested and dealt with under the Defence of India Rules or Bengal Regulation III of 1818

XXVII. In how many instances were persons arrested either under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, or on any specific charge of criminal offence ultimately dealt with under—

(*i*) Rule 3 of the Defence of India Rules, or,

(*ii*) Bengal Regulation III of 1818,

either without being charged with any offence, or having been acquitted or discharged by any court of justice?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"There were 87 such cases under the Defence of India Rules and 7 under Regulation III of 1818."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :

Arrests made under Rule 12 A of the Defence of India Rules

XXVIII. (*a*) In how many instances were arrests made under the provisions of Rule 12 A of the Defence of India Rules?

(*b*) Who were the officers in Bengal authorised under Rule 12 A of the Defence of India Rules to make arrests without warrant?

(*c*) In how many instances were orders passed under Rule 3, clauses (*a*) and (*b*), of the Defence of India Rules without actual arrests being made?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :

"(*a*) Up to the 31st August, 1916, 286 arrests were made under Rule 12 A of the Defence of India Rules.

(*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to Bengal Government Notification No. 15077 P., dated the 28th December, 1915, which was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 29th December, 1915.

(*c*) In 166 cases orders were issued under Rule 3 (*a*) and (*b*) of the Defence of India Rules without prior arrests under Rule 12 A."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :

Confinement under the Defence of India Rules and Bengal Regulation III of 1818

XXIX. (*a*) Is any person, against whom steps were taken under Rule 3 (*a*) and (*b*), or Rule 12 A of the Defence of India Rules at present confined in jail?

(*b*) If so, is such confinement under any of the Defence of India Rules or under Bengal Regulation III of 1818?

(*c*) In the case of persons dealt with under Rule 3, clauses (*a*) and (*b*), of the Defence of India Rules, are they allowed to enjoy limited freedom in their enforced domicile? Are they allowed to hold interviews and communications with relations? If so, on what terms?

(*d*) Are relations allowed to have interviews and communications on similar terms with those confined in jail either under Bengal Regulation III of 1818 or under the Defence of India Rules?

(*e*) How many instances are there, if any, in which persons—

(*i*) serving out their sentences of imprisonment upon—
(1) conviction of any criminal offence, or
(2) failure to furnish security for good behaviour under the Code of Criminal Procedure,

(*ii*) confined as under-trial prisoners and eventually acquitted or discharged by any court of law,

have been detained in custody under Bengal Regulation III of 1818 or the Defence of India Rules, after their original confinement had come to an end?

(*f*) In each of the cases mentioned in the foregoing clause, when did the original confinement begin?

(*g*) Was there any regular discharge from prison before any such person was served with orders under the Defence of India Rules or Bengal Regulation III of 1818?

(*h*) Does the treatment accorded to such persons as political *détenus* in jail materially differ from that accorded to them either as convicts or under-trial prisoners? If so, in what respects?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :-

"(*a*) & (*b*) No person is detained in jail under the provisions of Rule 3. Ninety persons are at present detained under the provisions of Rule 12 A. The number actually detained at present under Regulation III of 1818 is 51

(*c*) Limited freedom is allowed to persons who are domiciled. They are permitted to have interviews with their relatives by permission of the District Magistrate or such other officer designated by him. They are also allowed to communicate with their relatives, provided their letters are first scrutinized by the Superintendent of Police of the district in which the *détenu* is domiciled.

(*d*) The reply is in the affirmative.

(*e*) & (*f*) There are 24 such cases. The original confinement began on the following dates :—One in March, 1912, one in June, 1914, twenty in 1915, and one in January and one in March, 1916.

(*g*) In all cases when orders under the Defence of India Rules directing domicile in a selected area are issued, a regular discharge from detention in prison is first made, but in the case of persons dealt with under Regulation III of 1818, they continue in prison.

(*h*) Persons detained in a jail under Rule 12 A of the Defence of India Rules enjoy privileges superior to those of under-trial prisoners. They are permitted to wear their own clothing, and a cot and bedding are provided. They are also provided with the ordinary food of persons of their class, and they are permitted to read books and magazines."

By the Hon'ble BABU BIRENDRA CHANDRA RAY :-

Interviews with and transference of interned persons.

XXX (*a*) Are there any instances on record in which applications from relations for an interview with persons detained in custody, under either Bengal Regulation III of 1818 or the Defence of India Rules, have been refused? If so, on what grounds?

(*b*) How many persons were or have been interned in their own native homes in the midst of their family?

(*c*) Is there any instance on record in which a person originally interned as indicated here was subsequently transferred elsewhere? If so, what were the grounds for such action?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :-

"(*a*) Yes, there have been some such instances In all these cases Government had reasons for the refusal, but do not consider it desirable in the interests of the State to make them public.

(*b*) Thirty-four persons are at present interned in their homes or with their relatives.

(*c*) Yes; there have been several such cases. The chief grounds which have influenced Government in the transfers have been—

(1) considerations of the health of the *détenus*,

(2) the evasion of rules by the *détenus*;

(3) the danger of the *détenus* getting into touch with undesirable persons."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Confinement under rule 12A of the Defence of India Rules.

XXXI. In how many instances were persons kept in confinement for over 15 days under Rule 12 A of the Defence of India Rules, and for what reasons?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"Up to the 31st August, 1916, the number of persons who were kept in custody in jail under Rule 12 A of the Defence of India Rules beyond the period of 15 days was 256. The reason was that the inquiries into their cases had not been completed."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Interned persons and the grant to them of maintenance allowances.

XXXII (*a*) How many persons dealt with under rule 3, clauses (*a*) and (*b*), of the Defence of India Rules are being given allowance for their maintenance during detention, and at what rates?

(*b*) In the case of a bread-winner of a family being detained, is any allowance given towards the maintenance of the family?

(*c*) If so, in how many cases, and at what rates is such allowance being given at the present moment?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) (*i*) One hundred and seventy-three persons dealt with under the Defence of India Rules are in receipt of personal maintenance allowances at rates ranging from Rs. 8 per mensem to Rs. 87-12 per mensem.

(*b*) Whenever applications are received, they are considered. The policy followed is to consider in each case what the previous earnings of a *detenu* were and what resources are left to the family. When the absence of the *détenu* has rendered his family unable to obtain the necessaries of life, Government are prepared to consider the question of contributing to the maintenance of the family.

(*c*) In the case of *détenus* under the Defence of India Rules, 15 family allowances out of 34 cases in which application was made, have been granted at rates varying from Rs. 7 per mensem to Rs. 75 per mensem. In a large number of cases no applications were received, and in many cases the *détenu* was not earning anything prior to his detention."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Municipalities in Bengal.

XXXIII. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing, district by district, the municipalities within the territories now forming the Presidency of Bengal as existing in the year 1885, and as existing in the year 1915, together with the following particulars regarding each of such municipalities :—

(*a*) the date of establishment,

(*b*) if abolished, the date of abolition, and

(*c*) in which Schedule of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884, each municipality is entered?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"A statement is laid on the table."

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *to question No. XX.* (*unstarred*) *asked by the* Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR *at Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1916, showing the Municipalities exis in 1885-86 and in 1915-16 within the territories now forming the Presidenc Bengal.*

District.	Municipalities existing in 1885-1886.				Municipalities existing in 1915-16.		
	Name of Municipality.	Year of establishment.	Year of abolition.	Schedule in which entered.	Name of Municipality.	Year of establishment.	Sche wl ent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Burdwan ...	1. Burdwan ...	1865	...	...	1. Burdwan ...	1865	.
	2. Kalna ...	1869	...	...	2. Kalna ...	1869	.
	3. Katwa ...	1869	...	...	3. Katwa ...	1869	.
	4. Dainhat ...	1869	...	II	4. Dainhat ...	1869	I
	5. Raniganj ...	1876	...	...	5. Raniganj ...	1876	.
	6. Asansol ...	1885	1889	...	6. Asansol ...	1896	I
Birbhum ...	7. Suri	1876	...	...	7. Suri	1876	.
Bankura ...	8. Bankura ...	1869	...	...	8. Bankura ...	1869	.
	9 Bishnupur ...	1873	...	...	9. Bishnupur ...	1873	.
					10 Sonamukhi ...	1886	I
Midnapore ...	10. Midnapore ...	1865	...	...	11. Midnapore ...	1865	.
	11. Tamluk ...	1864	...	...	12. Tamluk ...	1864	.
	12. Ghatal ...	1869	...	...	13. Ghatal ...	1869	.
	13. Chandrakona ...	1869	...	...	14. Chandrakona ...	1869	.
	14. Ramjibonpur ...	1876	...	...	15 Ramjibanpur ...	1876	.
	15. Khirpai ...	1876	...	...	16. Khirpai ...	1876	.
					17 Kharar(a) ...	1888	
Hooghly ...	16. Hooghly and Chinsura	1865	...	...	18. Hooghly-Chinsura	1865	.
	17. Serampur ...	1865	...	...	19. Serampore° ...	1865	.
	18. Uttarpara ...	1865	...	II	20. Uttarpara(a) ...	1865	
	19. Baidyabati ...	1869	...	...	21. Baidyabati ...	1869	..
	20. Bhadreswar ...	1869	...	...	22. Bhadreswar ...	1869	.
	21. Kotrung ...	1869	...	...	23. Kotrung ...	1869	..
	22. Bansberia ...	1869	...	...	24. Bansberia ...	1869	..
					25. Rishra-Konnagar° ...	1915	..
					26. Arambagh(a) ...	1886	I
Howrah ...	23. Howrah ...	1862	...	...	27. Howrah ...	1862	.
	24. Bally ...	1883	...	...	28. Bally	1883	.
24 Parganas ...	25. Suburban ...	1864	1888	II			
	26. Baranagore ...	1869	...	...	29. Baranagore ...	1869	.
	27. South Suburban ...	1869	...	...	30. South Suburban ...	1869	.
	28. Rajpore ...	1876	...	...	31. Rajpur... ...	1876	..
	29. Barnipore ...	1869	...	II	32. Barnipur ...	1869	I
	30. Jaynagore ...	1869	...	...	33. Joynagar ...	1869	..
	31. South Dum Dum ...	1876	...	...	34. South Dum Dum ...	1876	..
	32. North Dum Dum ...	1870	...	...	35. North Dum Dum ...	1870	..
	33. South Barrackpore...	1869	...	...	36. South Barrackpore†	1869	..
	34. North Barrackpore ...	1869	...	...	37. North Barrackpore...	1869	..
	35. Barasat ...	1869	...	...	38. Barasat ...	1869	..
	36. Naihati ...	1869	...	...	39. Naihati ...	1869	..
	37. Basirhat ...	1869	...	...	40. Basirhat ...	1869	..
	38. Taki ...	1869	...	...	41. Taki	1869	..
	39. Baduria ...	1869	..	...	42. Baduria ...	1869	..
	40. Gobardanga ...	1870	...	...	43. Gobardanga ...	1870	..
					44. Cossipur-Chitpur ...	1889	..
					45. Maniktala ...	1889	..
					46. Kamarhati (a) ...	1899	I
					47. Tollygunge ...	1901	..
					48. Garden Reach ...	1897	I &
					49. Panihati ...	1900	..
					50. Titagarh ...	1895	I
					51. Garulia ...	1896	I &
					52. Halisahar ...	1903	I
					53. Bhatpara ...	1899	I
					54. Budge Budge ...	1900	I

(a) Removed from Schedule II in July 1916.

° The old Serampur Municipality was subdivided into two Municipalities, viz., Serampur and Rishra-Konnagar in 1915.

† Subdivided into two Municipalities from 1st April 1916.

District.	Municipalities existing in 1885-86.				Municipalities existing in 1915-16		
	Name of Municipality.	Year of establishment.	Year of abolition	Schedule in which entered.	Name of Municipality.	Year of establishment	Schedule in which entered.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nadia ...	41. Krishnagar ...	1864	...	...	55. Krishnagar ...	1864	...
	42. Santipore ...	1865	...	II	56. Santipur ...	1865	...
	43. Ranaghat ...	1864	...	...	57. Ranaghat ...	1864	...
	44. Nadia	1869	...	...	58. Nadia (Nabadwip) ...	1869	...
	45. Kushtia ...	1869	...	...	59. Kushtia ...	1869	...
	46. Kumarkhali ...	1869	...	...	60. Kumarkhali ...	1869	...
	47. Meherpur ...	1869	...	...	61. Meherpur ...	1869	...
	48. Birnagar ...	1869	...	II	62. Birnagar ...	1869	II
					63. Chakdah ...	1886	II
Murshidabad ...	49. Berhampore ...	1876	...	...	64. Berhampur ...	1876	...
	50. Lalbagh or Murshidabad.	1869	...	...	65. Murshidabad ...	1869	...
					66. Jangipur ...	1869	...
	51. Jungipore ...	1869	...	...	67. Kandi ...	1869	II
	52. Kandi	1869	...	II	68. Azimganj ...	1896	...
					69. Dhulian (a) ...	1909	II
Jessore ...	53. Jessore ...	1864	...	...	70. Jessore ...	1864	...
	54. Kotchandpur ...	1883	...	...	71. Kotchandpur ...	1883	...
	55 Maheshpore ...	1869	...	II	72. Maheshpore ...	1869	II
Khulna ...	56. Khulna ...	1884	...	I	73. Khulna ...	1884	...
	57. Satkhira ...	1869	...	...	74. Satkhira ...	1869	...
	58 Debhatta ...	1876	...	I	75. Debhatta ...	1876	...
	59. Chanduria ...	1876	1896	I			
Dacca ...	60. Dacca	1864	...	...	76. Dacca ...	1864	...
	61. Naraingunge ...	1876	...	...	77. Narayanganj ...	1876	...
Mymensingh ...	62. Nasirabad or (Mymensingh).	1869	...	...	78. Mymensingh ...	1869	...
					79. Muktagacha ...	1875	...
	63. Muktagacha ...	1875	...	...	80. Jamalpur ...	1869	...
	64. Jamalpur ...	1869	...	...	81. Sherpur ...	1869	...
	65. Sherpore ...	1869	...	...	82 Kishorganj ...	1869	...
	66. Kishorganj ...	1869	...	...	83. Bajitpur ...	1869	...
	67. Bajitpore ...	1869	...	...	84 Netrokona (a) ...	1887	II
					85. Tangail (a) ...	1887	II
Faridpore ...	68. Faridpore ...	1869	...	...	86 Faridpur ...	1869	...
	69. Madaripore ...	1875	...	...	87. Madaripur ...	1875	...
	70. Goalundo ...	1881	1887	...			
Bakarganj ...	71. Barisal ...	1876	...	...	88. Barisal ...	1876	...
	72. Nalchiti ...	1875	...	I	89. Nalchity ...	1875	I
	73. Jalakati ...	1875	...	I	90. Jalakati ...	1875	...
	74. Pirojpur ...	1885	...	I & II	91. Pirojpur (a) ...	1885	II
					92. Patuakhali (a) ...	1892	II
Chittagong ...	75. Chittagong ...	1864	...	...	93. Chittagong ...	1864	...
	76. Cox's Bazar ...	1869	...	I & II	94. Cox's Bazar ...	1869	II
Tippera ...	77. Comilla ...	1864	...	...	95 Comilla ...	1864	...
	78. Brahmanbaria ...	1868	...	...	96. Brahmanbaria ...	1863	...
					97. Chandpur ...	1897	II
Noakhali ...	79. Noakhali ...	1876	...	...	98. Noakhali ...	1876	...
Rajshahi ...	80. Rampore Boalia ...	1876	...	...	99. Rampore Boalia ...	1876	...
	81. Natore ...	1869	...	...	100. Natore ...	1869	...
Dinajpur ...	82. Dinajpur ...	1869	...	...	101. Dinajpur ...	1869	...
Jalpaiguri ...	83. Jalpaiguri ...	1885	...	I & II	102. Jalpaiguri (a) ...	1885	II
Darjeeling ...	84. Darjeeling ...	1850	...	I & II	103. Darjeeling ...	1850	II
	85. Kurseong ...	1879	...	...	104. Kurseong ...	1879	...
Rungpore ...	86. Rungpore ...	1869	...	...	105. Rungpore ...	1869	...
Bogra ...	87. Bogra	1876	...	...	106. Bogra ...	1876	...
	88. Sherpore ...	1876	...	...	107. Sherpur ...	1876	...
Pabna ...	89. Pabna	1876	...	...	108 Pabna ...	1876	...
	90. Serajgunge ...	1869	...	...	109. Serajganj ...	1869	...
Malda ...	91. English Bazar ...	1869	...	...	110 English Bazar ...	1869	...
	92. Old Maldah ...	1869	...	...	111. Old Malda ...	1869	...
					112. Nawabganj ...	1903	II

(a) Removed from Schedule II in July 1916.

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Internment of persons in Bengal

XXXIV. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of persons interned in Bengal up to the 31st August, 1916;

(*ii*) the district to which each interned person belongs;

(*iii*) the date of his internment;

(*iv*) his age at the time of his internment;

(*v*) his profession or calling at the date of his internment;

(*vi*) the number of persons dependent on him at the date of his internment;

(*vii*) the amount of monthly allowance granted to him; and

(*viii*) the number of servants he employs at his place of enforced domicile?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*i*) Government do not consider it consistent with the public interests to publish the names of the persons who have been dealt with under the Defence of India Rules. Orders of compulsory domicile in selected areas within the Bengal Presidency have issued against 266 persons up to the 31st August.

(*ii*) The districts to which the 266 interned persons belong are given below :—

Calcutta	57
24-Parganas	25
Nadia	11
Jessore	9
Khulna	5
Murshidabad	1
Howrah	9
Hooghly	8
Birbhum	1
Midnapore	2
Dacca	24
Faridpur	29
Bakarganj	12
Mymensingh	34
Tippera	10
Noakhali	4
Chittagong	1
Rajshahi	2
Malda	3
Pabna	14
Punjab	1
Assam	2
Bikanir	1
Bihar and Orissa	1

(*iii*) The date of the orders issued against the 266 persons are shown below in monthly totals :—

1915.

May	16
June	...
July	1
August	13
September	1
October	11
November	...
December	4

1916.

January	...	...	...	...
February	...	...	...	23
March	...	...	...	28
April	...	...	...	47
May	...	...	...	22
June	...	..	...	20
July	...	.	...	5
August	...	...	..	77

(*iv*) & (*v*) Information as to the age and profession or calling of the *détenu* at the time of his internment is being collated.

(*vi*) It is not possible to give at this stage the total number of dependants. Applications have, however, been received in the case of 34 persons who are *détenus* under the Defence of India Act, for allowances for the maintenance of their families. Allowances have been sanctioned in 15 cases and refused in 14 cases. Five cases are under inquiry. The rates of the 15 family allowances vary from Rs. 7 to Rs. 75 per mensem.

(*vii*) One hundred and seventy-three persons are in receipt of personal subsistence allowances. The rates vary from Rs. 8 to Rs. 87-12 per mensem

(*viii*) No *détenu* is at present allowed to employ at his place of domicile more than one servant."

By the Hon'ble MR. Z. R ZAHID SUHRAWARDY :—

Appointment of Muhammadans to listed posts.

XXXV. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many listed appointments are at present held by the Muhammadan members of the Bengal Provincial Civil Service?

(*b*) If none, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that there is a widespread feeling of disappointment among the Muhammadan community on account of no Muhammadan being appointed to such posts?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) One listed appointment is at present held by a Muhammadan member of the Bengal Provincial Civil Service.

(*c*) Government are aware that there is a strong desire among the Muhammadan community that more Muhammadans should be appointed to listed posts. The reasons why this desire cannot be fully met at present are explained in the answer to Question No. XXXVI."

The Hon'ble MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY asked the following SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :—

"Is it not a fact that the one Muhammadan who holds a listed appointment is a member of the Assam Service, and not of the Bengal Service."

The Hon'ble MR. LYON replied :—

"He is a member of the Bengal Provincial Service now deputed to Assam."

By the Hon'ble MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY :—

Non-appointment of a Muhammadan to the post of Magistrate and Collector of Bogra.

XXXVI. (*a*) Were there any reasons for not appointing a Muhammadan officer to the vacancy recently caused by the death of Mr. N. L. Bagchi, late Magistrate and Collector of Bogra?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state why a Muhammadan was not appointed?

Resolution.

[*Maulvi Abul Kasem.*]

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) Appointments to listed posts are made strictly by selection; and in filling up the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Nanda Lal Bagchi, the records of all Deputy Collectors in the first five grades were carefully and individually examined by Government. The officer selected was taken from the third grade. He was held to be in every way qualified for the post, and Government did not think it would be right to pass him over in order to appoint an equally qualified Muhammadan junior to him in the list. A reference to the Civil List will show that there are only two Muhammadan officers in the first three grades, and the choice of Muhammadan officers for listed posts is therefore at present very restricted. There are a number of excellent Muhammadan officers in the lower grades, whose chance of promotion will come in due course."

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 2.

RESOLUTION.

(*Under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest.*)

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM moved the following Resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that an embankment be raised on the southern bank of the river Ajai, in the district of Burdwan, from Fatehpur to Lakaria, a distance of six miles, as a protection against floods.

He said :—

"My Lord, in moving this Resolution, I crave the indulgence of Hon'ble Members for a few minutes to explain the situation and the circumstances which have made it necessary for me to bring forward this Resolution for the favourable consideration of this Council and of your Excellency's Government. There is an area of some 50 square miles which is a sort of doab and is subject to floods every year from the Ajai river. The bank of the river is high and the country below it is very low and even after an ordinary rainfall the whole area is flooded and considerable damage is done to crops and property. Like the embankment of the river Damodar there is a system of embankment from Satkonia to Sagarpotul on the southern bank of the Ajai which is now maintained and controlled by the Government, but after Sagarpotul up to Lakaria there is also a zamindari embankment which is not of sufficient height and strength and consequently it cannot protect the area from floods, and since the last two years Government in the Irrigation Department have issued a circular in which they say that the land immediately on the side of the Ajai is now vested in the Government under the Embankment Act, and so the people cannot at the present day repair the embankment as they did in previous years and in fact that part of the country is at the mercy of the river Ajai. It may be said, my Lord, that these embankments obstruct the natural drainage of the country around, but the case of the area I am speaking of is very different. The excess water of this area does not flow into the Ajai but into the Kundoor, and the floods of the Ajai instead of laying silt on the land lay a layer of sand which makes the land sterile, and, in fact, the land around is getting sterile every day and the condition of the crops is very bad, and therefore it has become imperatively necessary that this embankment should be repaired and properly maintained. I speak

[*Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri; Mr. Beatson Bell.*]

subject to correction, but I understand that the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan contributes Rs. 13,000 for the maintenance of the embankment on the southern bank of the Ajai and I am sure the subordinate talukdars and zamindars would be willing to contribute their share of the Government demand if the embankment be raised under the terms of the Embankment Act, and if flood-escapes are provided in places where the Ajai comes in contact with the water channels and if regulators are put up it will greatly help the irrigation of the country and at the same time help in flushing the country around. It will also add to the health of the locality and at the same time give facilities for cultivation and the fertility of the land around will increase. It has been remarked, my Lord, that if this embankment be raised, it will cause an increase of malaria, but the circumstances are quite different in that part of the country, the land being of a lower level than the river bed, the flood water remains stagnant and gives rise to malaria. With these few words I beg to commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the Council."

The Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI said :—

"I beg to second this Resolution. It is certainly necessary that something should be done for granting relief to the sufferers. We remember a recent occasion on which a large number of people suffered greatly on account of the absence of such an embankment. We know how much it taxed the energies of private individuals, not to speak of the authorities. I think it is not necessary to say much on the subject, and I hope the Resolution will be accepted by the Government and your Excellency will do something for the relief of the sufferers. With these few words I support the Resolution."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

"My Lord, I cannot but sympathise with the Hon'ble Member who has moved this Resolution, but at the same time I am afraid we cannot accept it. I would refer him to a question asked in this Council on the 26th July, 1915, by the Hon'ble Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Choudhury.

The following answer was given by the Hon'ble Mr. Cowley :—

'The information before Government is to the effect that any attempt to embank the Ajai river with a view to protect the adjoining country from submersion would be a mistake, and would considerably obstruct the natural drainage of the country. This question was fully discussed in 1860, and orders were then issued for the entire abandonment of the Ajai embankments, with the exception of the four D Schedule embankments—27, 28, 29 and 30.'

That answer was given after a careful and deliberate discussion with our professional advisers. I have also before me a letter from Mr. Addams-Williams, written before he went on leave, in which he urges us in the strongest terms not to undertake any more embankments in the Ajai river; likewise a letter written a few days ago by Rai Amarnath Das Bahadur, who is now Superintending Engineer of the South-Western Circle. This brilliant Indian officer urges us also in equally strong terms not to attempt to embank the river Ajai. Our professional advisers point out that if we allow embankments in one place there will certainly be a similar demand elsewhere, with the result that the river Ajai will become just like the Damodar, with high embankments on both sides. The bed of the river will rise. The embankment will inevitably break in the year of floods and the whole country will be devastated. In view of the very strong advice which has been given us by our engineering experts, I regret very much that Government is not in a position to comply with the request of the Hon'ble Member."

[Maulvi Abul Kasem; Mr. Beatson Bell.]

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM said :—

"My Lord, the fact is that there is a system of embankment up to Sagarpotul and the country below is subject to floods. There is an embankment on the southern bank and what is more there is an embankment on the northern bank and therefore the area I am speaking of is absolutely unprotected."

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

"It is true that there are D Schedule embankments on the right bank of the river, but in the letter to which I have just referred Mr. Addams-Williams records his opinion that the country would be better off if these embankments did not exist. He would like to see them removed."

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM said :—

"My Lord, in the circumstances explained by the Hon'ble Member in charge, I beg to withdraw this Resolution."

The Resolution was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 3.

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM moved the following Resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that all offices under the control of the Government of Bengal, and especially educational institutions, be closed on the occasion of the *Id-ul-Fitr* festival for two days instead of one day as at present.

He said :—

"My Lord, I do not think that this Resolution needs many words from me to commend it for acceptance by this Council. The *Id-ul-Fitr* is one of the greatest Muhammadan festivals, if not the greatest, and it is very reasonable on the part of the Muhammadans to demand that public offices should be closed for two days on the occasion of that festival. Civil Courts are closed for two days, but the Criminal Courts and other Government offices close only for one day. There is an additional reason why the Courts should be closed for two days. The *Id-ul-Fitr* is celebrated on the day following the date on which the moon is visible. Orders are issued on the previous day and no one knows on what day it should be closed and on what day the festival would be celebrated ; just as in Suri the *Id-ul-Fitr* was celebrated by some on Tuesday and by some on Wednesday. The Courts were closed on the first day and the Muhammadans had to attend on the second day and they were consequently put to great inconvenience. They have to attend their prayers and perform certain ceremonies in connection with this festival, and they ought to get the holiday, and to avoid all trouble the Courts should be closed for two days. It will give Muhammadans an opportunity to say their prayers quietly among their friends and in the bosom of their families.

As regards educational institutions, my Lord, Government fix the number of holidays to be observed in these institutions, and the school authorities have generally, for the sake of convenience, fixed the gazetted holidays as the holidays for the Muhammadans. The public schools and colleges are allowed only one day for this festival. The authorities sometimes say that Muhammadan students may absent themselves on these days, but that is not the point. Muhammadan students may absent themselves for a month, but they lose the lectures and it is therefore no concession. In the circumstances explained above, I hope this Resolution will meet with the approval of this Council."

[*Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq*; *Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur*; *Mr. Z. Suhrawardy*; *Mr. Rasul*; *Mr. Beatson Bell.*]

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said :—

"I wish to support this Resolution, and the best way I can do it is not to add anything to what has been already said by my Hon'ble friend. I think he has made out a very strong case, and I hope it will succeed on its merits."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, may I be permitted to draw your Excellency's attention to one fact, and that is, that one of our holidays has been curtailed in order to grant an additional holiday to the Muhammadans. Since the beginning of British rule in India we have been allowed two days for the *Jagadhatri Puja*: out of this one day has been reduced in order to give one day to our Muhammadan friends."

The Hon'ble Mr. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY said :—

"My Lord, as it is, we have got very few holidays observed in Government offices as sacred to Muhammadans, and an additional one day will not cause great inconvenience. My Hon'ble friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, has very generously accepted this Resolution, but has complained that this has been done by cutting out one day from the holidays that were granted for the *Jagadhatri Puja*. As it is, my Lord, we have so few days observed as sacred to the Muhammadans that we would ask your Excellency's Council to accept this Resolution and to give satisfaction to your Excellency's Muhammadan subjects if that could be done by the addition of one day. I have great pleasure in supporting this Resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. RASUL said :—

"My Lord, I have great pleasure in supporting this Resolution, and I shall indeed be greatly surprised if it is not accepted by this Council and the Government. The Hon'ble Member has asked for two days, but I would have asked for three days, because the *Id-ul-fitr* is, as the Hon'ble mover has pointed out, one of the most important Muhammadan holidays, if not the most important, as far as the Sunni Muhammadans are concerned. We observe the *Id* for three days. It is very inconvenient if only one day is granted to the Muhammadans, because it is known to many, if not to all who are present here, that we have to go and call on relatives and see our friends and it is impossible for us to do that in one day. For Christmas, we generally get 6 or 7 days, for Easter we generally get 3 or 4 days and for the Pujas we get over a month. I do not therefore see any reason why the Muhammadans' demand for the *Id* holiday, which to them is as important as either Christmas or Easter or the Puja holidays, should be refused. I therefore support my friend's Resolution and hope it will be accepted by the Council."

The Hon'ble Mr. BEATSON BELL said :—

"My Lord, there are several branches of this question of holidays. Holidays, so far as mercantile offices are concerned, are notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act. Quite recently, we considered very carefully the list of holidays under this Act. The result, as pointed out by the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, was that one day was reduced from the *Jagadhatri* and given to the *Id-ul-fitr*. We were sorry for our Hindu friends, but it could not be helped. It is quite out of the question that the list of holidays published under the Negotiable Instruments Act can be increased. There are however certain executive holidays. These are not holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, but all Government offices, other than commercial offices, are closed. Finally, there is the third class, that is to say, days on which the clerks of certain religions may absent themselves by permission of the head of the office. The second day of the

[*Maulvi Abul Kasem; Mr. P. C. Mitter.*]

Id-ul-fitr is now treated under the third class, whereas the second day of the *Jagadhatri* is treated under the second class. We are considering with an open mind whether we should not transfer the second day of the *Id-ul-fitr* to the second class—in other words whether we should not treat the *Id-ul-fitr* exactly as we treat the *Jagadhatri*. We recognise that parties and witnesses are concerned as well as clerks. As regards holidays in educational institutions under our control we have already made up our minds to meet the wishes of the Hon'ble Member. In the circumstances I trust that he will withdraw his Resolution."

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM said :—

"My Lord, it is with great pleasure that I withdraw my Resolution. We never asked for two days' holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act and we shall be quite satisfied if the magisterial and executive offices are closed for two days."

The Resolution was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM—No. 4.

The following Resolution which stood in the name of the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem was, by leave of the President, postponed to the next meeting of the Council.

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that a Government High School be established at Burdwan as soon as practicable.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEMS—NOS. 5 AND 6.

The Hon'ble MR. PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER moved the following Resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council—

(*i*) that the different District Boards in Bengal be asked to spend, for rural water-supply, during the official year 1917-18, not less than one-third of their closing balance for the official year 1916-17;

(*ii*) that the sum referred to in clause (*i*) be spent in addition to the average sums spent by each District Board for the said purpose in the official years 1914-15 and 1915-16;

(*iii*) that each District Board be asked to prepare and publish for local information a definite and detailed scheme for this purpose as early as possible, and not later than the 15th December, 1916.

He said :—

"My Lord, the necessity and urgency of rural water-supply is well established. The people keenly feel it and the Government earnestly desire it. So far back as the year 1894-95 dealing with the working of the District Boards in Bengal, the then Government of Bengal in paragraph 48 of its Report impressed upon the District Boards the urgency and necessity of paying greater attention to rural water-supply. Since then there have been various important circulars and letters in which the Government have repeatedly drawn the attention of the District Boards to this important question. Notably we have, amongst others, some letters and circulars of the year 1896 and of the years 1902, 1904, 1910 and 1911. I am not going to

[*Mr. P. C. Mitter.*]

trouble the Council by giving any details of these letters and circulars. It is sufficient for my present purpose to indicate that in all these letters and circulars Government tried to impress upon District Boards the urgency and necessity of providing better water-supply for the rural population of Bengal. Coming to Your Excellency's administration, I find that there is a very important Resolution of November 1912, I mean, the Resolution which resulted from the well-known informal Conference which was held at Darjeeling, and in which Your Excellency's Government impressed upon the various District Boards as to the urgency and necessity of solving this question. Later on there are other important letters and circulars—notably a circular which was issued under the signature of the Hon'ble Mr. Samman to all the Divisional Commissioners, I mean the circular of February 1914, and another important circular, namely, that issued under the signature of Mr. K. C. De in September 1915. In these circulars Your Excellency's Government again invited the attention of District Boards to this question. My Lord, I have said that the people keenly want it and I should like to add that Government are aware that the people keenly desire that this want should be removed. In the Resolution of 1912 to which I have drawn the attention of the Council, it is stated that "In the course of the tours he has made since his arrival in Bengal, His Excellency the Governor has been most strongly impressed with the keen appreciation on the part of the people of the existence of this want." So that we have it that the people keenly desire it and we have it also that the Government are equally keen about it; so, how is it that the question of rural water-supply is in this deplorable state? Now, my Lord, if I can satisfy Hon'ble Members that we have funds at our disposal, then I submit it ought to follow that a reasonable proportion of these funds should be spent on this important necessity. With Your Excellency's leave I propose to place certain figures before the Hon'ble Members. If the Hon'ble Members would refer to the very illuminating Resolutions dealing with the working of the District Boards in Bengal, they will find that the total closing balance of the year 1911-12 was 23 lakhs and odd that of the year 1912-13, 29 lakhs and odd. Now I should like to mention here the fact, which is well known to Hon'ble Members, that in November 1913 the Provincial cesses were all surrendered to the District Boards, that, roughly speaking, these cesses amounted to about 29 lakhs, so that we have it that in the year 1913-14 with this increased 29 lakhs in income that the closing balance increased considerably and amounted to 151 lakhs in the place of 23 lakhs and 29 lakhs of the previous years. In the Resolution dealing with the administration of that particular year, the Government drew the attention of the District Boards to these large closing balances. The result was that members of the District Boards perhaps made such an attempt as they were capable of to improve matters, but even with such an attempt we find that at the end of the year 1914-15 their total closing balance was 43 lakhs. The figures for 1915-16 are not yet available. So that we find that in the year 1914-15 out of an income of one crore of rupees there was a large closing balance of 43 lakhs. In the year 1913-14, with a total of one crore and 7 lakhs, there was such a large closing balance as 51 lakhs and odd. Now, my Lord, with regard to this deplorable state of affairs the Government in their Resolution of the year 1912-13, after dealing with some explanations given by the District Boards for these large balances, and after practically finding that these explanations were wholly insufficient, went on to state:—

"The fact remains that the closing balances have increased by over 25 per cent., and now amount to nearly 3) lakhs; while the total expenditure of the past year chargeable to current income is but slightly in excess of 60 lakhs. In other words, the balances are almost equal to half the ordinary expenditure. The Governor in Council is of opinion that the explanations furnished are in no way adequate to justify this extraordinary position, which calls for the most serious attention of the District Boards. The good work that could be done by these bodies is limited only by the resources at their disposal, and any fresh calls of an urgent nature are

almost invariably met by a plea of poverty. Such a plea is peculiarly inappropriate when urged by a body that ignominiously fails to spend the funds it has."

I beg to draw the attention of the District Boards to the following passage with all the emphasis that I can command :—

"During the past year a permanent addition has been made to the resources of Rural Boards by the surrender of the proceeds of the public works cess, and the hands of District Boards have for the present been left entirely free in the application of these additional sums. If full advantage is to be taken of this liberal concession, it is essential that practical schemes of expenditure should be drawn up and unremitting energy devoted to the actual work of carrying these schemes to completion. The Governor in Council earnestly commends this matter to the attention of all District Boards and desires to impress upon them the fact that all applications for pecuniary assistance that may in future be received by Government from any District Board will be examined in the first instance with reference to the success that that Board has achieved in expending its ordinary income."

If this was the deplorable state of affairs in 1912-13 when the total income from all sources of all the District Boards was only Rs. 71,70,000, and when the closing balance was only Rs. 29,71,000, is it not a matter for very serious consideration that in the next year with a total income of one crore and 7 lakhs instead of 71 lakhs, the closing balance instead of decreasing increased to 51 lakhs and odd, and is it not regrettable that in spite of the attention of the District Boards being drawn to these facts again by the Resolution in the Administration Report of that year, in the next year, viz., 1914-15, with a total income of one crore of rupees, the closing balance was Rs. 43,30,000, and odd? Therefore, I submit, the consideration of these figures will satisfy every one that there are large closing balances, and that the District Boards at any rate have not found it possible up to now to spend these closing balances on useful works of public utility. My Resolution is for all District Boards in Bengal, and I ought to point out that if we go into the details of the 25 different District Boards, we shall find that there are districts in which the closing balance is not very heavy; therefore by the very wording of my Resolution, my Resolution does not touch those districts. I am also aware that various District Boards in their Annual Reports point out from year to year that a portion of their closing balance is really earmarked for some useful expenditure. To take one instance, in my own district of 24-Parganas, I find that, for the last 4 or 5 years, a sum of rupees two lakhs have been earmarked for the *Nawi Sunthi* Scheme and that the District Board has found it very difficult out of its large closing balance to finance this scheme during all these 4 or 5 years. But even allowing for these 2 lakhs there will still be about 4 lakhs left. Making due allowance for such sums as are necessary for future work, there will still be large sums which ought to be spent on this crying need of Bengal. In this connection I should like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Members to what was stated by the Government when the 29 lakhs were surrendered in November 1913. It is perfectly true that when that sum was surrendered, the Government did not impose any conditions on the District Boards for that particular year. It is equally true that when the 29 lakhs were surrendered it was expected that the District Boards would go on spending a good portion at any rate of this sum of 29 lakhs on sanitary works. Whether because the Government found that the District Boards were not so inclined or whether because the Government thought it was necessary to call the attention of the District Boards to this question, we know that in February 1914 a circular was issued. In that circular it was pointed out that 'His Excellency in Council desires to impress upon them' (the different District Boards) 'the importance of setting apart a substantial sum for the sanitation of villages and anti-malarial measures and for the improvement of water-supply.' Again we find that there is a circular, dated the 26th September,

[*Mr. P. C. Miter.*]

1915, in which the Governor in Council desired 'to impress upon all District Boards the desirability of spending large sums of money for the excavation of tanks in rural areas.' The District Boards unfortunately instead of setting apart a substantial sum for the sanitation of villages and small towns for the improvement of water-supply and anti-malarial measures have really been spending almost the whole of their increased income on roads and buildings. I do not for a moment deprecate the importance of 'communications,' but the people must live before there will be a necessity for using these roads and buildings. I find, my Lord, between the years 1912-13 and 1914-15 under the head of 'Buildings' there has been an increase of Rs. 1,82,000 and odd and under the head of 'Communications' there has been an increase of 12 lakhs, and under the head of 'Repairs to communications' there has been an increase of 5 lakhs making a total of 20 lakhs out of an increased income of 29 lakhs. Surely, my Lord, these 29 lakhs were not set free for taking away such an important portion for roads and buildings. My Lord, I should like to make another quotation from the Government Resolution of 1911-12. But before I do I should like to remind the Hon'ble Members that during the year 1911-12 the income of District Boards was much less and Rs. 29 lakhs were not set free, that other grants, for instance, for education were not made by the Government. To return to my question I find it stated in the Resolution dealing with the administration of District Boards of that year, 'It has been a standing reproach against District Boards that they have failed to utilise their income to the full extent and have allowed large balances to accumulate at the close of the year.' My Lord, if that was a standing reproach in the year 1912-13 when the closing balance was 23 lakhs only, was it not worse in the year 1914-15 when the closing balance had nearly doubled and the income had risen by about 50 per cent.? Therefore, my Lord, for all these reasons I submit that the District Boards should be requested to spend larger sums in water-supply during the next official year and that these larger sums should not be less than one-third of their closing balance for the official year 1916-17. I have purposely drafted my Resolution in this manner, so that each individual District Board will have the full opportunity of increasing this one-third, and I do hope that most of the individual District Boards will enhance this one-third, although I have taken one-third as the minimum. Regard being had to the very large sums at the disposal of the District Boards, one-third is not surely too much. My object is that the District Boards should spend more than they have been spending in the past. In the third clause of my Resolution I have asked District Boards to prepare and publish for local information a definite and detailed scheme for this purpose as early as possible, and not later than 15th December, 1916. In order that the Resolution may be given a practical shape, it is absolutely necessary that there must be definite schemes and the District Boards ought to be the best authorities for preparing these definite schemes; at any rate, I am in favour of giving them another chance, and after the District Boards have framed their schemes, they should be published for local information so that necessary suggestions and criticisms may be forthcoming, and that there will be sufficient time for the District Boards to go up to the Commissioner as required by the Act, and finally the matter will be placed before the Government. I submit, my Lord, that all the different clauses are necessary.

With Your Excellency's leave, I should like to add a few words about certain possible objections that have been urged by some of my Hon'ble friends. Some of them told me that my Resolution has the effect of interfering with local self-government and further that it is an admission that local self-government is a failure. With due respect to my friends who make this criticism I submit that it amounts to no such thing. The very wording of my Resolution respects the independence of the so-called local self-governing bodies because I have worded my Resolution in the form of a request and not in the form of a direction, but it may be said that this is merely a play on words. I submit I can take my stand on a far stronger reasoning, on the

[*Maulvi Abul Kasem*; *Babu Surendra Nath Ray.*]

actual realities of the constitution of these local self-governing bodies. If we look to the Local Self-Government Act of 1885 we find that financial control by the higher authorities is a reality. There being that control, should we pay no attention to that reality? As regards the second objection of my Hon'ble friends, that it is an admission that local self-government is a failure, I for one would say that I consider it far more important that the humble, helpless and disorganised raiyats toiling patiently all over the province should not perish for want of good drinking water than that a shibboleth or a political half-truth should be held up. If we examine the Bengal Local self-Government Act and the administration by the different District Boards, we can at once see that we have no real self-government in the true sense of the word. Of the 25 District Boards in Bengal three have no elected members at all and of the other 22 in each one of them the elected members are in a minority. Whether the state of affairs will improve if the elected members be in the majority or not, it is not necessary for my present purpose to inquire. It is sufficient for my purpose to say that we have no real self-government in the true sense of the word so there is no reason why my Resolution can be said to interfere with real local self-government."

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM moved that in the Hon'ble Mr. Provash Chunder Mitter's Resolution—

(*i*) for the words "their closing balance for the official year 1916-17", in clause (*i*), the following be substituted, namely :—

"the Public Works Cess received by them for that official year"; and

(*ii*) the following be inserted after clause (*i*), namely :—

"(*ia*) that the District Boards be asked to spend at least one-fourth of the Road Cess for the improvement of village roads."

He said :—

"My reasons for moving this amendment are simple. My friend has just remarked that in some cases the closing balance may be almost *nil* and in some cases the closing balance may be very great, and from what I know of District Boards I think the closing balance really means the balance of expenditure on sanctioned works and if we spend anything out of this closing balance, we shall have to stop the work which had been sanctioned in the previous year. In view of the fact that the Public Cess has been handed over to the District Boards, we would ask the Council to recommend to the District Boards that they should at least supply drinking water to the rural population, whether this request is an interference with local self-government or not. As far as the second part of my Resolution is concerned, the District Boards pay more attention to the scheduled roads than village roads, and it is a legitimate demand on the part of the taxpayers and the poor villagers that they should have some advantage of the road cess they pay."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"My Lord, as a Member of an important District Board in this Presidency, I should like to say a few words on this Resolution.

My Lord, I have felt as my friend has been feeling now the want of water-supply in rural areas. But the principal reasons why I have some difficulty in supporting my friend's Resolution, at least the first two portions of it, are that we do not like Government to interfere with the working of local bodies and also because the Resolution presupposes that there are 'matured schemes' for water-supply and that money is simply to

[*Babu Surendra Nath Ray.*]

be spent to carry them out. For aught we know there are districts in which there are no schemes ready and almost half of the official year has passed. It will take time to formulate schemes, to mature them, to take proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act for acquiring lands for tanks, which alone takes at least 6 months, and then to carry the actual work into execution. You cannot off-hand and haphazardly spend thousands and thousands of rupees for nothing. I respectfully submit that it is impossible for District Boards to carry out the first two clauses of my friend's Resolution.

Last year, in the month of August, as a Member of the District Board of the 24-Parganas, I asked the District Board to spend a decent sum of money for water-supply in the rural area as the Public Works Cess had been handed over by Government almost expressly for that purpose. Your Lordship will be surprised to hear, but nevertheless it is a fact, that I was told that it had received no such instructions and many of the Members of the District Board did not seem to know about it. In the Council Meeting of the 4th September, 1915, exactly this day last year, I asked the following questions in your Lordship's Council :—

Question (a)—Are the Government aware that, from want of definite instructions, the District Boards find it difficult to spend the amount derived from the Public Works Cess in improving the supply of good drinking water?

Answer (a)—The answer is in the negative.

Question (b)—Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing instructions to all District Boards as to how the amount derived from Public Works Cess should be spent?

Answer (b)—District Boards have been informed that Government consider it a matter of importance that they should set apart a substantial sum from their increased resources for the sanitation of villages and small towns, for the improvement of water-supply and for anti-malarial measures. A copy of the Circular is laid on the table.

The Circular of February 1914 was laid on the table.

I think as a result of my questions that your Lordship's Government was pleased to issue Circular No. 2319-23 L. S.-G., dated the 25th September, 1915, addressed to all Commissioners of Divisions. The words of both the Circulars, viz., the one of February, 1914 and the other of September, 1915, are definite and explicit, a substantial sum out of the income enhanced by the surrender of Public Works Cess to be spent for the sanitation of villages and small towns, for the improvement of water-supply and for anti-malarial operations. We must therefore frankly admit that Government have not been remiss in giving definite instructions as to how the money thus released from Government control, viz., the Public Works Cess, ought to be spent. They are not less definite than what my friend wants to get by his Resolution. But I think it is advisable that Government should direct that at least half the amount of Public Works Cess be spent on water-supply. But if the District Boards have not done their duty it is not the fault of Government. It is the fault of us, the Members of District Boards. The Government can take the horse to the water but cannot make it drink.

The amounts received as Public Works Cess are large. If this amount be properly utilised for 5 or 6 years, I think the question of supply of water in the rural areas of this Presidency will be solved. With this large amount, we can tackle other important questions, viz., the reclaiming of silted up rivers and once navigable channels which will not only improve the sanitation of a very large area of this Presidency but will bring health and plenty to cheer the labouring swarm. I really cannot account for the apathy and indifference of a large number of the Members of District Boards, the majority of whom are nominated, to this water-supply question. The Members of District

[*Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray.*]

Boards, as far as I am aware, set more value on having pucca metalled roads than on the supply of drinking water. In the District Boards the voice of the official Chairman, who is the District Magistrate, and that of the District Engineer count for much. I do not, however, lay the entire blame upon the Members of District Boards. My own opinion is that in District Boards, as in all public bodies presided over by an official Chairman, it is the latter who takes the initiative in all important projects and unless this is done the project lags behind. This has been the case with the question of water-supply. Whereas in Municipalities presided over by non-official Chairmen, wherever it is possible, there have been attempts and successful attempts to supply anyhow such bodies with pure drinking water and that, with the limited funds at their disposal, the District Boards with their superfluity of money have been so far indifferent. I think in many instances the real reason why the Public Works Cess has not been properly utilized is because many of the Members do not know the principal object why this large amount has been handed over to them by Government; in many cases the circular letters of your Lordship's Government to which I have already referred had never been placed before them nor such prominence been given to them as they deserved. People naturally will lay the fault at the door of the official Chairman of the District Board, because they think that if he wants a thing to be done for the good of the district he can always get it done. I think it is high time that the District Boards were reconstituted with a substantial majority of elected Members.

My Lord, as I have already said, I cannot support the Resolution in the form in which it has been laid before your Lordship's Council. I would, however, like to make one suggestion. Your Lordship's Government may be pleased to issue a fresh circular to all Members of District Boards and upon all District Officers, I mean the Chairman of District Boards, similar to the Circular letter of the 25th September, 1915, informing them of the objects for which the Public Works Cess was made over to them and to utilise the same for the said purpose without further delay.

I hope, however, your Lordship's Government will see its way to accept the last portion of the Resolution that each District Board be asked to prepare and publish for local information a definite and detailed scheme of water-supply with this modification that the portion regarding the publication of the scheme not later than the 15th December, 1916, be omitted. It is not possible for a District Board which has not already got its scheme ready to get it ready within the 15th December, *i.e.*, within three months from date. It is with great difficulty and after several months that I have succeeded in getting only a partial scheme ready for the district of the 24-Parganas, but as it was not a complete scheme, each Local Board within the District has been asked to submit a list of tanks necessary to excavate or reclaim within its jurisdiction and we hope to get the same within this month. If we succeed in getting the scheme ready within this month or within the next month it will be after I had been at it for months. It is necessary that all District Boards should be asked to be ready with their schemes before the end of the official year and then they can go on with the actual work. They may further be asked to submit the progress statement of the work done by them in this direction to the Commissioner of the Division every six months. This will facilitate the work and may eventually produce the desired result. But my own independent opinion is that this problem of water-supply and village sanitation will not be solved so long as Union Committees are not formed, each Union Committee consisting of 3 or 4 villages, so long as the real needs and requirements of a village are not grappled with on the spot."

The Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY said :—

"My Lord, I confess to a feeling of embarrassment in rising to speak on this Resolution. The question of water-supply in rural areas is so near to our

[*Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray.*]

hearts that any scheme calculated to further this object is naturally expected to receive our support. But, my Lord, one can claim to be pardoned if he fails to see eye to eye with an Hon'ble friend in regard to the practical utility of any proposal though brought forward with the most benevolent of intentions. The Hon'ble Mover has tried to bring out our remissness in dealing with the problem of water-supply in Bengal, which to many minds seems almost inexplicable in the face of the unspent balances that stand to the credit of the District Boards every year. Thrift ceases to be a virtue when practised by the local bodies, contends my Hon'ble friend. And I agree with him there. We individuals would be very happy indeed, if we were provided with a never-ending purse, and there were a mentor, like the Hon'ble Mover, to take us to task for not being sufficiently free with it. What is then the psychology of this unwholesome frugality on the part of our District Boards? On receipt of the notice of this Resolution, I thought it a duty which I owed to the constituency that I represent, to address a letter to the Vice-Chairmen of the District Boards in Bengal and of the Local Boards in the Presidency Division, inviting opinion on the different points connected with the subject-matter of this motion. The replies, which these gentlemen have been good enough to send me, strike one that there is so much of divergence between the conditions and circumstances of the different Boards, that it is permissible to doubt the wisdom of any measure which seeks to impose rigid restrictions on their finance in one sweep. The Khulna District Board, I am told, closed its last financial year with a deficit balance, and in 1916 the Jessore Board spent nearly its entire receipts leaving very little beyond the prescribed minimum balance; the Faridpur Board appears to have spent an average of over Rs. 33,000 on water-supply during the last two years, and even if one-third of the closing balance is added to this figure, the total falls short of the water-supply budget for the current year by some thousands. I pick out these instances only by way of illustration. It appears, in the first place, that the balance is generally very deceptive, being made up of the minimum closing balance, balance of allotments for works which could not be completed during the year and for which the unspent amounts must be reallotted, and amounts earmarked for certain important projects to be carried into effect in future. There are, besides, other items such as deposits and cheques not debited to the accounts of the closing year, which go to inflate the balance. So, in our calculation, the actual closing balance should be taken into account, *minus* the allotted balance under different heads which cannot be diverted to other purposes. And with the progress that is steadily being made every year in our expenditure on water-supply, an addition of one-third of this actual and free balance to the ordinary budget figure would not very much advance the cause of water-supply. The surrender of the Public Works Cess to the local funds has no doubt improved the financial position of our local bodies; but it must be remembered that concomitantly with this Government have withdrawn what were known as the equilibrium grants and other minor grants, and expenditure has generally increased under several heads—including water-supply.

The second point which appears from the notes that I have received from the District Boards, is that the race of expansion of water-supply is generally considered to be very satisfactory; and that if more could not be accomplished, the reasons were to be sought in other circumstances than wilful negligence or incompetency of the local bodies. The practical difficulties which my kind correspondents have mentioned as standing in the way of further acceleration in the rate of progress, can be summarised thus:—

1. The eternal difficulty about the local contribution of one-third of the cost, a condition which is not very often relaxed.

2. Apathy of land-owners, most of whom are unwilling to make gifts of lands for excavating tanks or wells, and do not come forward to place their tanks in the hands of the Boards under an agreement to reserve

[*Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray.*]

them for drinking purposes. The difficulty of re-excavating tanks owned by several co-proprietors is also well known.

3. The absence, in the case of a few Boards, of a definite and comprehensive programme which might be given effect to in a few years.

4. The large expenditure involved in carrying out projects of excavating reserve tanks by acquiring lands wholly without local aid.

5. Increasing demands in other directions.

There are other minor difficulties also, peculiar to particular localities, such as difficulty about getting or conveying materials for masonry wells and engaging good contractors in the interior, except at a prohibitive cost.

Some of my friends in the Local Boards have suggested that the grants on water-supply can be more profitably spent through the Local Boards, who, as matters stand, have no hand in the disposition of the grants under this head.

Having enumerated the chief obstacles to a more rapid expansion of water-supply in rural areas, let us consider what we have been actually spending for this purpose. Excluding items of expenditure in subvention of water-supply schemes in Municipal areas, the amounts spent on water-supply in Bengal were, roughly, 1 lakh 90 thousand in 1911-12; 1 lakh 63 thousand in 1912-13; 3 lakhs 71 thousand in 1913-14 and 5 lakhs 96 thousand in 1914-15. These figures, according to my calculation, work out at ·85 pie per head of rural population in Bengal in 1911-12. ·75 pie per head of rural population in 1912-13, 1·7 pies similarly in 1913-14 and 2·7 pies in 1914-15; so that in these four years there has been a substantial increase in expenditure. There has no doubt been a large expansion on the receipt side of our accounts owing to the assignment of the Public Works Cess. But while the total income of the District Boards in Bengal has increased from something like 60 lakhs a year to a little over 90 lakhs, that is to say 50 per cent. during this period, expenditure on rural water-supply has become three-fold. Again, before 1913-14 the proportion of expenditure on rural water-supply to the total income of the District Boards of Bengal was on a rough average 2 per cent. per annum. It reached 3 per cent. in 1913-14, the very first year during which the District Boards administered the Public Works Cess; and it exceeded 4 per cent. in 1914-15. We are not yet in a position to know if this rate of progress has been well maintained during the financial year which has just closed. But from the statement made by the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Sams-ul-Huda, at the last budget meeting, it appears that from the inquiry that he had made, he believed that the District Boards spent much more largely during the last year than they had ever done before.

If, my Lord, I am permitted to travel a little beyond the range of our provincial statistics, I think it can be shown that in the two sister Presidencies, where, unlike Bengal, the local bodies have been appropriating the entire land cess for very many years, things have not progressed at a quicker rate. On a rough calculation, I find that the local bodies in Bombay did not spend much more than 4 per cent. of their total income upon water-supply in 1912-13; and in the following year the figures went down almost by one per cent. In Madras again, not more than 2·8 per cent. of the total income of the Boards was spent in water-supply in 1913-14; and a little less in 1914-15. I am fully conscious that conditions vary greatly in the different provinces. But before condemning our local bodies we might for a moment turn our eyes to the other provinces where the local bodies were more fortunately placed before the Public Works Cess came to be assigned to the five Provinces in Northern India in 1913. Just as I leave this point I desire to examine how the total closing balance stood in proportion to the total amount available for expenditure during recent years. In 1910-11, the total closing balance in Bengal was about 26 per cent. of the total amount available; in 1911-12 it rose a little above that; for 1912-13

[*Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray; Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur.*]

the figure was 31 per cent; and in 1914-15 it came down to something like 29 per cent. In examining these figures it must be borne in mind that during 1913-14 and 1914-15 there was an unusual accession of funds, the Public Works Cess having been made over to our local bodies in 1913.

In Bombay, the proportion was something like 24 per cent. in 1912-13, and 27 per cent. in 1913-14. And in Madras the figures stood roughly at 26 per cent. in 1913-14, and 21 per cent. in 1914-15. Thus, Bengal does not seem to suffer very much by comparison in this respect.

My Lord, my justification for taking up so much of the time of this Council is that I feel that the District Boards are fully alive to their responsibilites in the matter, and a little friendly advice is all that they may require now and then. Your Lordship's Government have always taken a keen interest in the well-being of our rural people, and can be safely depended upon for whatever guidance our local bodies may stand in need of. But, my Lord, one would draw the line at peremptory mandates issuing upon these self-governing bodies in every instance of supposed negligence or default. I fully sympathise with the Hon'ble Mover in his desire to see a larger sum shown under the expenditure head of "Water-supply," but I doubt whether the mere process of ear-marking an amount will ensure its being spent unless the local bodies themselves are agreeable. Again, the system of ear-marking of the funds of the District Boards is one which came in for unfavourable criticism at the hands of the Decentralization Commission, who have recommended that the restrictions on the manner in which the Boards should allot their funds should be swept away. The Government of India having accepted this recommendation, stated in their Local Self-Government policy, 1915, that these restrictions should be relaxed. The attitude of the Government of India in this behalf appears to be one of non-interference, as was clearly explained by the Hon'ble Sir Edward Maclagan in the Imperial Legislative Council in February last, when speaking on a Resolution moved by the Maharaja of Nashipur regarding ear-marking of the assignment of Public Works Cess to certain specified purposes. My Lord, what is most needed at the present moment is a well-thought-out, comprehensive scheme of water-supply in the province. After the Water-supply Conference was held at Darjeeling at Your Excellency's instance, it was understood that when the necessary materials had been collected by Sub-overseers specially deputed for preparing maps and making a survey, it might be necessary to convene a larger Conference to discuss the best methods of procedure. At any rate, the Hon'ble Mr. Donald made a statement to this effect in reply to the Maharaja of Nashipur in January, 1913. As we are all anxious to see our funds utilised to the fullest advantage, a representative Conference should be held as early as practicable for discussing the best methods of pushing forward schemes of water-supply. And I am sure whatever suggestion will emanate from the Hon'ble Mover will carry very great weight with such a Conference. For the present I would humbly request him not to press the Resolution."

The Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR said:—

"In August last I asked for a tabular statement of receipts and expenditure of public works cesses in the District Boards in Bengal. I have got full information on the subject. Then again to-day I put a question as to the reasons which prevented the District Boards from spending larger amounts than was expected. The answer to that question shows that they had some reason. The large amount of closing balance has attracted the notice of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Mitter, and he thinks that this large amount or the greater portions of it ought to have been spent. I have full sympathy with him and I share his opinion. It cannot be said that this special grant which has been given to the District Boards should be utilised for other purposes than those

[*Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur.*]

for which they have been allotted. But, my Lord, the phrase 'closing balance' is a misleading one. It is very well known that the sums which are not spent for original works by the District Boards, are included in their closing balance. The amounts which are to be reappropriated are re-allotted again by the District Boards and consequently the closing balance of the year appears to be greater than it really is. Besides, my Lord, it is a known fact that in the closing balance a certain minimum amount, say 5 per cent. or ten per cent., is kept over for the purpose of a reserve. So I submit that the words 'closing balance' do not mean strictly the savings on the amount which was to be spent in the current year. Now the District Boards feel a difficulty in allotting money for the excavation of tanks. What is the amount which should be spent on that head? On the one side, it may be argued that the entire amount ought to be spent; on the other side, it is said that not quite so much, but a substantial portion of that amount should be spent. But what does a substantial portion mean? Now the circular of the Government on that subject is to that effect, and I say that it is not necessary to limit it to a fixed standard, one-third or one-fourth, and it ought to be left to the discretion of the District Boards to spend a substantial portion, and they ought to be fully alive to their sense of duty. Your Lordship will realise that it is necessary for the District Boards to spend large amounts for water-supply. Water is the life of man, and consequently any amount which can be spared should be spent on that account. If the District Boards have neglected their duty and have not spent the amount as one could wish, they may be told to do so, but to limit the amount to a specified standard, is in my humble opinion objectionable. Self-government is a success in this country and, besides, District Boards are guided by experienced Chairmen who are in a position to spend the money according to the demands of the people, and if that has not been done, there is no reason why that power of a self-governing body should be controlled by any recommendation from Your Excellency's Government. That is my humble opinion on the matter and therefore I solicit Your Excellency to consider whether it would be reasonable or practicable to put a limit on the authority of the District Boards. Any recommendation on the part of the Government would be carried out by the District Boards, but they have many things to do which one cannot possibly understand at first sight. They have to provide money on various accounts. Your Lordship is aware of the fact that in the Road Cess Act there is a special provision that some amount was to be spent for the supply of drinking water, but that was not done satisfactorily, and the District Boards, though fully alive to their sense of duty, found it a difficult task to provide adequately for the supply of good drinking water. They thankfully received the special grant of the public cesses which was handed over to them by the Government and having got it they were bound to spend it, and I therefore submit that some explanation may be required from the District Boards on this matter. I submit, my Lord, that Your Excellency's Council will consider that one-third is a very small amount, but that a substantial amount ought to be spent by the District Boards on that account. One who is bred and brought up in a village can realise what the actual state of affairs is. In some places the tanks have been silted up and the women folk have actually to carry the drinking water from a great distance and if one will go with me to any village he will be impressed with the picture which I have drawn. In the hot weather months one finds it extremely difficult to procure good drinking water, and with all the emphasis I can command, I submit to Your Excellency that some means may be found to help the poor villagers in a larger measure by the District Boards as well as by the absentee landlords and larger amounts be spent on the supply of good drinking water.

As regards the amendment of my Hon'ble friend Maulvi Abul Kasem, I have a few words to say. This Resolution will not be an effective one. It is for a given year and my view is that if any instructions are to be given, they must be given to the District Boards not for any particular year."

[*Mr. A. Rasul*; *Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. A. RASUL said :—

"This is a very important Resolution. Those who have touch with the mufassal know what is meant by scarcity of water. It is known to them that the villagers from the month of November to the month of July drink nothing but muddy water. No doubt here and there there are some tanks; but in most of the villages, especially in Eastern Bengal, there are not many tanks, and therefore people do suffer in that way. Of course it may be asked as far as this Resolution is concerned whether one-third should be spent or whether one-fourth should be spent, there may be difference of opinion in regard to that. I frankly admit that I have no experience of District Boards and I do not know the working of District Boards in Bengal, but at the same time I know in what a deplorable condition the water-supply in the villages is, and therefore, I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution which requests the Government to urge the different District Boards, if it is possible, to spend more money on the water-supply. I do not think there can be any opposition as far as the principle of the Resolution is concerned. At any rate, so far I have not heard anything about that, therefore whether it should be one-third or one-fourth or one-eighth, it must be left to the discretion of the Government, if this Resolution is accepted, when they ask the different District Boards to spend what amount of money they think best. I have also great pleasure in supporting my friend the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem's amendment, especially the second portion of it, that is to say that the District Boards be asked to spend at least one-fourth of the Road Cess for the improvement of village roads. Many Hon'ble Members who have never been to the mufassal know nothing of the condition of the village roads, but we, who do come from the mufassal, are fully acquainted with the condition of these roads, and what sufferings we have had at times. Therefore, I have great pleasure in supporting this part of the amendment as well as the Resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Pravash Chunder Mitter."

The Hon'ble BABU AMBICA CHARAN MAZUMDAR said :—

"My Lord,—The interesting discussion to which we have all listened with so much attention has brought out one point very prominently before the Council. The Hon'ble Mover of the Resolution has brought a number of indictments against the District Boards which he is even prepared to characterise as a misnomer for self-governing institutions. Of the Members who have joined in the discussion some have followed the lead of the mover of the Resolution, while others have tried to defend the unfortunate local bodies; and out of all these divergent views I would draw one conclusion which, however startling it may appear to the Council, seems to be irresistible as it goes to the root of the whole question. Whether you condemn the District Boards or support them there is one question which underlies all these discussions, viz.,—what are the District Boards and what are their responsibilities? Whether we choose to call the District Boards self-governing institutions or characterise them as departments of the Collectorate, there is one thing which must strike every reasonable mind, and that is the constitution of these bodies. They cannot be rightly held wholly responsible as self-governing representative bodies because there is always a standing majority of official and nominated Members on them. There is very little to choose between the official and nominated Members whether in this Council or in the local bodies. There is thus an official majority in the District Boards which are presided over by District officers who generally dictate the policy and direct the operations of these bodies. The District Engineer is his right-hand man and counsellor who naturally owes his allegiance to no one but his chief. Under such a depressing condition the elected representatives of the people have neither any potential voice nor are they very much troubled with a sense of their responsibility. The people have long cried for a change in this constitution. The Hon'ble Mover of the Resolution has forcibly referred

[*Rai Debender Chunder Ghose Bahadur; Mr. K. B. Dutt.*]

to the many reminders and warnings from time to time given by Government to the District Boards who have failed to utilise the generous grants surrendered to them in 1912 for village water-supply and sanitary improvements of rural areas. It is said that the Boards have paid very little heed to them. My Lord, may I draw the attention of Your Excellency's Government to the ready compliance and loyal submission of the Municipal Corporations in such cases to the directions of Government and the instructions of Government experts and the remarkable success which they have achieved in recent years in matters of water supply and sanitation in urban areas? In the case of the District Boards presided over by the District officers the balance of the generous grants of the Public Works Cess has gone on accumulating year after year probably in the view that they could be considered as excellent economists who do not expend but only accumulate for the benefit of the posterity; while in the case of the Municipalities they are always ready to spend beyond their means and do not hesitate either to beg from the Commissioner or borrow from the Government for the water-supply of their towns and the sanitary requirements of their constituents. My Lord, we beseech Your Excellency's Government to try the same experiment with the District Boards as has been so successfully tried in the case of the Municipalities; make the District Boards really representative bodies by providing a substantial majority for the elected Members and try at least a few selected District Boards with non-official Chairman to direct their affairs, then Government will have an opportunity of judging the comparative merits of the two systems side by side, and the two pictures will present an object lesson the value of which cannot be wholly lost either one way or the other. In case this experiment is made, I am sure Government will at least find in the newly constituted Boards greater consideration shown to the directions of the Government and a more genuine recognition of the liberal grants which have been surrendered from a portion of its revenue for the improvement of water-supply and sanitation of the rural areas. My Lord, I do hope and trust that Your Excellency will make that experiment before condemning Local Self-Government altogether."

The Hon'ble RAI DEBENDER CHUNDER GHOSE BAHADUR said:—

"My Lord, I feel that I am able to support in a general manner the Resolution moved by my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Pravash Chandra Mitter, and as for the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem's amendment, I do not see how it can be called an amendment at all. It should have been brought up before the Council as a separate Resolution. I think the District Boards are labouring under some practical difficulties in the matter of promotion of rural water-supply, even after the increased grant by the Government was made. I believe there are a few District Boards—24-Parganas is one of them—which have done something in this direction. The practical difficulty which the Boards experience is this: you have a rule that the villagers should contribute one-third of the cost of excavating a tank as a condition precedent of the District Board paying for the remainder. The land-owners, who happen generally to be a numerous body, are seldom able to combine and deposit the one-third of the estimated cost, and so the project falls through. I think it would be well to abrogate this rule and for the Board to pay for the whole of the cost. I think power under the Land Acquisition Act should be given to District Boards to acquire tanks in villages. They should also construct new tanks and wells which would be used purely for drinking purposes. It will of course cost more money, but I would suggest that these tanks may be used for fish culture as well, and in that way the District Boards might make a profit of from 8 to 10 per cent. on the capital laid out. This matter should, I think, be properly considered by the District Boards, and I believe it is the only way in which the difficulty can be solved."

The Hon'ble MR. K. B. DUTT said:—

"The Resolution, as I understand it, is indeed a very modest one. The learned mover has not asked Your Excellency's Government to do anything

[*Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.*]

unusual, but he has only asked Your Excellency's Government to give effect to the various assurances that Your Government have given from time to time. I am somewhat surprised to find that this Resolution has raised discussions not exactly pertinent to the issue. To my mind it is undoubtedly not an encroachment on the independence of the District Boards. They have not given effect to Your Excellency's Government's desire to improve the water-supply, and this Resolution asks that Your Excellency's Government would impress upon the District Boards the necessity of giving effect to the desire of Government that a certain amount of money should in each year be spent for the purpose of improving the crying wants of the villagers. Your Excellency's Government have set apart 29 lakhs since 1913 for the sanitation and improvement of water-supply and anti-malairial measures, and if I am not mistaken, when Your Excellency's Government set apart this money for this purpose, Your Excellency's Government only reserved to themselves the right of imposing certain conditions, and therefore if Your Excellency's Government were now to advise the District Boards to spend a certain amount of money for this crying want, I do not think for a moment that it would in any way encroach on the rights of the District Boards and their independence. I therefore think Your Excellency's Government should give effect to the Resolution and also the amendment moved by the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem."

The Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI said :—

"My Lord, I rise neither to bring any accusation against District Boards for their apathy nor to support them in their working. I know something of the working of the District Boards and I think that there are certain misconceptions on the part of some of the Hon'ble Members who have spoken. The closing balance is not the proper thing which should be touched upon. It is composed of the working or opening balance as far as I know the minimum $\frac{1}{8}$th of the ordinary income and the unexpended balance allotted to certain works. If we are to take away any portion of the closing balance, it may be that the other works, for which the amounts were car-marked, might suffer; so that to my mind the better course would be to accept the amendment moved by my Hon'ble friend Maulvi Abul Kasem. A definite portion of the Public Works Cess can be easily set apart for the provision of good drinking water in rural areas. I do not think, my Lord, that anything more is necessary at present than has already been done by Your Excellency's Government, for impressing upon the local authorities the need for granting relief on this important subject. I was a Vice-Chairman of my own District Board, Rajshahi, continually for nine years. What I then really experienced was want of definite information on the subject. Whenever we proceeded to set aside any part or to do anything for the granting of sums for the provision of rural water-supply, we found that sufficient applications for relief were not before us to enable us to do any substantial work. Of course, at the time there was the difficulty of the Government Circular in which it was enjoined that one-third of the contribution from the local people should be insisted upon. I believe, my Lord, that when the Public Works Cess was surrendered to the District Board, that necessity disappeared, but I am afraid that the District Boards have not been able to take advantage of the full and unfettered discretion given by Your Excellency's Government, in dealing with their additional grant. The real need is, as has justly been observed by my Hon'ble friend Babu Surendra Nath Ray, that Union Committees should be established all over Bengal. Really we are not at present in a position to know what is to be done for the improvement of water-supply in villages.

My Hon'ble friend Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar has justly remarked that there is some difficulty in regard to the constitution of the District Boards. The District Boards are not really representative. There are very few people in the District Boards who really know the needs of rural areas. I believe that when the Union Committees are established, the villagers will be able to formulate the schemes and supply necessary information. Your

[*Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray.*]

Excellency should take steps for the establishment of Union Committees wherever it is possible, and I think it is possible everywhere. That there is necessity and urgency, there is no question. The question is how the necessary information can be collected at the present moment If Sanitary Inspectors are appointed under the Sanitary Boards, the information can be collected by the members of the Local Boards. When the Union Committees are established, they will be the proper persons to supply the necessary information. My suggestion is that the third point urged by the Hon'ble Mover should be acted upon, that is, that necessary information should be collected and that detailed schemes for each district be prepared, either with the help of Union Committees or with the help of Local Boards and the representative Members. When that is done, I think a definite portion of the Public Works Cess can be set apart for removing this urgent need. The Road Cess was ear-marked for communications. As far as I know the supply of good drinking water in rural areas is a legitimate demand upon the Road Cess. But when the Public Works Cess was surrendered to the District Boards, it was done for meeting the expenditure on medical relief and as far as I remember for meeting the deficit for primary education, and it was expressly suggested that a substantial portion might be spent on the improvement of sanitary reforms and for the supply of good drinking water.

In this connection, what has been suggested in the second part of the amendment, that is, that definite instructions be given for spending at least a fourth of the Road Cess for the improvement of village roads, I may state that that will be a very salutary provision because that will help the establishment of Union Committees.

The question of want of funds has also been raised. As far as I know Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000 is set apart for each District Board. That is, however, a very trifling amount with which nothing very much can be done. If there is no provision for the assessment by Union Committees for the improvement of local roads, when the Local Self-Government Act is amended, this provision should be considered. For the present I think that both the amendments suggested by my Hon'ble friend Maulvi Abul Kasem may be accepted and the third point, that is, the preparation of a definite scheme for each District Board, can also be acted upon. I think that my Hon'ble friend the mover will accept the suggestion that every year for a few years to come a substantial portion of the Public Works Cess, if possible, be spent on these improvements. With these few words, I commend the Resolution for the acceptance of Hon'ble Members."

The Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY said :—

"My Lord, I am surprised at the Resolution coming, as it does, from a strong supporter of the self-government movement. The Resolution, as it is worded, aims to curb the powers of those representative bodies through which we all are enjoying at the present moment the only form of self-government, so far allowed to us ; and as a Member of one of these bodies I shall be failing in my duty were I not to raise a note of opposition to this Resolution. The powers and privileges of the so-called self-governing District Boards are already very much limited by the various restrictions and conditions imposed by the Government and it would be casting a slur on the administrative capacity of our countrymen if in this era of all-round progress our hands are tied tighter instead of giving us a free hand in the management of our own affairs of which we are perhaps the best judges. Moreover, our budget has to be submitted to the Divisional Commissioner, to whom the welfare of the people under his charge is not a matter of little importance and he has the fullest power to modify our budget if necessary. I must say here that I fail to follow the force of the argument of the Hon'ble Mr. Mazumdar that because of official majority the people in the district are not properly supplied with water. Why, have not the officials a conscience? I dare say that they feel more than many of us, non-officials, for the raiyats for where we have many

[*Rai Rudha Charan Pal Bahadur.*]

things to attend to, their duty is to attend to the welfare of the people who are placed in their charge. Under the circumstances, I cannot advocate any measure which proposes to brand our District Boards with the stigma of incompetency. The principle now followed by the Government in giving us gentle hints as to how we are to spend our income is much better than any hard-and-fast rule which will be hanging as a halter round the neck of the District Board. As the figures for 1915-16 are not available yet, I am taking the figures of 1914-15 to show what would have been the state of affairs in 1915-16 if this Resolution had been moved and accepted a year ago. In 1914-15 the closing balance was Rs. 43,30,000 or so. One-third of the closing balance was 14½ lakhs, and the ordinary expense on water-supply was about Rs 53,000. According to this Resolution an outlay of 20 lakhs or 400 per cent. in excess of what is ordinarily spent would have been required in 1915-16. What would have been the effect of this sudden increase can be easily imagined by any man of business. Even recently we had our own experience when asked to dispose of the huge grants on education. To be candid, I am never for any sudden change like this; they are more injurious than beneficial. Progress is always best when it is made slowly and carefully.

The proposal to allot to water-supply a fourth of what we are receiving under the head of Public Works Cess is much more reasonable, but even this interference is uncalled for. In fact, during last year, in the whole province 26·6 per cent. of the total receipt of the Public Works Cess was spent on water-supply.

My Lord, from my personal experience, I can assure the Council that the District Boards are not so apathetic towards the water-supply problem as they are supposed to be by people who are prone to pass comments on them from a distance. If we are guilty of not spending much on water-supply the fault is not our own; it is rather the fault of the circular issued during the term of Sir A. Fraser which demands one-third of the cost of digging tanks and wells from the inhabitants of the locality. Unless this circular is withdrawn, it will never be possible for District Boards to spend much on water-supply, because people in many parts of the country are too poor to make this contribution. It is worthy of note, however, that larger amounts are being spent on water-supply since some relaxations were made in the above rule, and I hope that with the withdrawal of the circular these amounts will continue to be increased without any interference as is contemplated by this Resolution. With these few words, my Lord, I request the Council to reject this Resolution."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, when I came to this Council, I had no intention of taking part in the debate on this Resolution. I would have only contented myself with listening to the eloquence of my Hon'ble friends. But after what I have just heard on both sides of the question, I desire to say something. In the first place, I would give my whole-hearted support to the Resolution moved by my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Provash Chunder Mitter. I have heard the arguments as urged from different points of view and nobody can accuse me of not being a supporter of local self-government. It is only owing to the partial granting of local self-government to us that I am speaking in this Council to-day.

My Lord, all honour to the Members representing the District Boards for their valiant stand, but I think none of them have made out a case to show that the indictment that has been made against them by my Hon'ble friend has no justification. Only in 3 District Boards out of 25 there is a nominated majority. In others there is a majority of elected Members. And there is nothing to show that the elected Members urged for the improvement of rural water-supply and they failed. In the Municipal body to which I have the honour to belong, there is a majority of nominated Members, but the views of the elected Members, even when they are not given effect to,

[*Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur; Babu Mahendra Nath Ray.*]

are pressed with unabated earnestness. The elected Members of the District Boards have done nothing in that direction. My Lord, I am of opinion that this Resolution should be carried. I do not commit myself whether one-third or one-fourth of the Public Works Cess should be devoted to the purpose of rural water-supply. I will leave that to Government who may also leave it to the sense of responsibility of the District Boards. But what I want is that the District Boards should be compelled to spend at least a portion of it towards rural water-supply. And when we think of the villagers drinking muddy water from roadside nullahs I do not think even the most ardent supporter of local self-government would object to this Resolution being carried.

Another argument has been put forward by my Hon'ble friend, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, that the activities of the District Boards are often hampered by the Circulars and Resolutions of Government issued from time to time. And as regards the question of water-supply he says that the District Boards cannot take up any work because there is a Circular of Government that for any particular work in that direction a quarter of the expenses must come from the public. But I understand, My Lord, that that Circular has been withdrawn."

The Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY said :—

"Not withdrawn, but it has been relaxed in practice."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR continuing said :—

"It comes to the same thing. They are not being hampered in any way now. And if we are to justify the self-governing institutions of this country we must put our house in order."

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"My Lord, we are very much obliged to our Hon'ble friend, Mr. Provash Chunder Mitter, for the facts and figures he has given us. He cries over a complaint which is very old and which, as he points out, has been repeated in the Government Resolutions year after year. I have, however, very grave doubts whether the remedy he proposes is the right one. The position was very fairly summed up in the last Resolution of Your Excellency's Government on the working of the District Boards, and as it may have escaped the memory of some of us, I shall take Your Excellency's leave to read out a portion of the Resolution which deals with this point :

'It is disappointing to find in some districts a lack of spontaneous participation by the villagers in the task of improving the water-supply. Schemes in Bankura and Midnapore were hampered by the unwillingness of the villagers to contribute the one-third share of the cost, which in ordinary circumstances it is just and reasonable that they should provide. In the districts of Murshidabad and the 24-Parganas, proposals for the improvement of private tanks on certain conditions and for the excavations of new tanks on lands made over to the Boards for the purpose did not prove a success owing to the reluctance of proprietors to enter into agreements with the Boards. In the Chittagong Division an increased number of applications for grants-in-aid by owners of private tanks indicates a livelier appreciation by the public of the facilities now made available through the District Boards. The Governor in Council earnestly appeal both to the common sense of the peasantry for their co-operation in the movement for mitigating a want so keenly felt in rural Bengal, and to the public spirit of the land-owners for their assistance in finding land for the purpose. District Boards have been

[*Babu Mahendra Nath Ray.*]

advised to make particular use of their resources during the current year (that is, the year in which we are) from the Public Works Cess on the excavation of tanks.'

This is, I consider, a very fair estimate of the present situation and the difficulties which the District Boards are meeting with. It is from the figures which are supplied in the last Government Resolution on the working of the District Boards in Bengal that it would appear that the outlook is bad no doubt, but not quite hopeless. We find, for instance, that in the year 1914-15 the total expenditure by the District Boards on water-supply and water-works amounted to nearly 6 lakhs of rupees, which constitutes a fifth of the whole of the Public Works Cess surrendered to the District Boards four years ago. Take these figures in comparison with the figures for the year immediately preceding, *i.e.*, those for the year 1913-14. The total expenditure on water-supply and water-works amounted to Rs. 3,71,000; a progress from Rs. 3,71,000 to nearly 6 lakhs of rupees is not perhaps satisfactory, seeing that a large sum was surrendered to the District Boards four years ago for purposes of which water-supply was the chief one. Still the progress is noteworthy, and in view of the difficulty which the Government Resolution points out, it is time we should take heart and not despair of the working of local self-government. I am in perfect sympathy with the Hon'ble Members who represent the District Boards in the Presidency and in the Rajshahi Divisions in their defence, which it is their duty to make of the District Boards. No doubt, as I have said, the outlook is bad, but the object of true statesmanship is not with the fretfulness of the novice to attack existing institutions, but to find out where the true remedy lies. It is for my friend to the left (the Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar) and not for me to defend the political "shibboleths" which have been criticised by one of the elected Members of this Council. It is not for me but for others to discuss that point. But it has been said that the Magistrate of the district stands in the way of all pious desires on the part of the minority who are the elected Members of the District Board to apply a substantial portion of the surrendered Public Works Cess to water-works. Well, I have not got the experience of many District Boards; I have, however, a quarter of a century of experience of a District Board very near this town. I have never found any opposition on the part of the Magistrate or of the District Engineer, the much-abused man, of whom we have heard so much to-day, to do anything against an attempt to apply a substantial portion of this surrendered grant to this purpose. What we find is this; the schemes have to be prepared and they have been prepared in most of the districts. We consult the subordinate bodies, the Local Boards and Union Committees where they exist for the purpose of helping us in selecting where tanks can be excavated or where tanks belonging to private owners can be re-excavated. We do not find on the part of the people whom we approach that sympathy which is to be expected. What are the District Boards to do under such circumstances? Are the District Boards to throw away a considerable portion of the money thus set apart into the tanks, and then to say: 'We have spent so much money on water-supply?' I have no doubt that when the people who are owners of private tanks and other people who can help the District Boards in acquiring lands at less than market value realise the gravity of the situation and the importance of the question, the District Boards will be able to get on.

I perfectly agree with my Hon'ble friend to my left (Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar) that the constitution of the District Boards is not satisfactory. Those of you who belonged to the old Council will remember that I struggled my best to have them reconstituted. But why attack the District Boards? Why don't you deal with them as they are? I am very glad to find that those of us who have experience of the actual working of the District Boards do not take that gloomy and despondent view and do not endorse that pugilistic attitude towards these institutions, which those who have very little experience of these Boards desire to take up. My learned friend who

represents the District Boards of the Burdwan Division was very ambiguous. I do not know whether he supported the motion or opposed it. My Hon'ble friend said that we should not restrict the powers of the District Boards. I agree with him; but at the same time if my Hon'ble friend said that there should be a Government mandate directed to the District Boards that they should spend so much, then I certainly do not agree, and I am quite sure the bodies whom he represents do not agree. There is, as I have said, no lack of funds; my Hon'ble friend Rai Debender Chunder Ghose Bahadur has suggested the experiment of letting out tanks to fishermen; I think it is a very good idea, and I doubt not it will be utilized by private individuals. It is not in lack of funds, but only in the absence of properly developed schemes, and of that full co-operation which we expect from owners of private tanks and people at large, that the District Boards are experiencing difficulty. From year to year the Government have been pressing upon the District Boards the necessity of increasing the expenditure, and I am quite sure that the pressure which is being put on them is bearing fruit. In a Council consisting largely of non-official members elected by representative bodies there is no occasion, where legitimate pressure is being put upon local bodies for the purpose of doing their duty, to desire the record of a Resolution asking Government to interfere.

For these reasons, I am sorry, I cannot support the Resolution. If I were to choose between the first part of the Resolution of the Hon'ble Mr. Provash Chunder Mitter and the amendment proposed by the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem, I shall certainly choose the latter. A very great practical difficulty is attached to directing that a third of the closing balance in the case of each of the District Boards should be allotted for the purpose indicated. I hope, my Lord, the Council will not consider it desirable to have a record here of the inefficiency of District Boards, because under the circumstances the Government Resolution of the last year sets out, it is not the District Boards alone who are responsible."

(At this stage the Council was adjourned for an hour for lunch.)

The Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA said :—

"My Lord, I do not see the propriety of the Resolution. At all events, I do not see the propriety of the Resolution being moved by non-official Members. I have no quarrel with the Hon'ble Member on the merits of the Resolution. It relates to a non-controversial matter. In fact, the Resolution asks for something which is of the most vital importance to the millions of my countrymen. I am not aware of anything more important than the question of rural water-supply. But none the less I fail to understand how a Resolution like this can come with good grace from the non-official Members, some of whom have been returned to the Council by the District Boards themselves. It is, of course, a mere accident that the Hon'ble Mover of this Resolution does not come within the latter category. It is an impeachment not of the Government but of the District Boards. I am not one of those who like to mince matters even if they go against ourselves. We must have the courage to look facts in the face. But this is a matter which rests entirely with the District Boards and not with Government. The Government may very well say this to the District Boards and through them to the people of Bengal:

'We have given you money. We have surrendered the Public Works Cess to you. We have indicated in the most unmistakable language our desire that you should spend more money upon rural water-supply than you have done. In view of all this, why should your representatives come up with Resolutions like this.'

In fact, will it not be something like carrying coal to Newcastle if we were to convey a request like this to the District Boards? In answer to this Resolution the Government may very well say—

'Do your duty, and the purpose of the Resolution will be accomplished.'

[*Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

There is another ground upon which I question the propriety of this Resolution. The Hon'ble Mover is simply asking the Government to interfere with the freedom of the District Boards. When the Government first surrendered the Public Works Cess to the District Boards the grant was made unconditionally and if I remember aright—for I am speaking from memory—the Government said in so many words that they (the Government) would leave them free in the matter of the utilization of this new income. Is it proper that we should court an interference? Some Hon'ble Members have spoken about the constitution of the District Boards and asked for more elected Members and for non-official Chairmen. I quite appreciate their observations, and I yield to none in my keenness about these reforms. But I should think that they are more or less irrelevant to the Resolution just now before us. The reforms suggested may well be the subject-matter of an independent Resolution or legislation.

On these grounds, I oppose this Resolution, although I am in perfect agreement with the principle sought to be laid down for the guidance of the District Boards."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, I have listened with very great interest to the debate which has taken place, and I welcome the discussion which has helped to clear the air of a great deal of vague ideas that have prevailed on the subject. On one point all of us are united, that is to say, we all recognise the vital importance of a good water-supply for the rural areas of Bengal. Those who support the Resolution and those who oppose it, all recognise that; and so far as we are concerned we have shown by the circulars which we have issued from time to time, that we also fully recognise the importance of the question. My Hon'ble friends who have spoken on the subject have all recognised the efforts that have been made from time to time by Government to impress upon the District Boards the imperative necessity of spending large sums of money on water-supply. It cannot, therefore, be said that Government can possibly approach this question with any prejudice in their mind. There are several difficulties in the way of our accepting the original Resolution as well as the amendment proposed by the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem. In the Resolution it is recommended that no less than one-third of the closing balance for the official year 1916-17 should be spent on rural water-supply. I perhaps misunderstood my Hon'ble friend, as I thought he wanted Government definitely to pass an order on the District Boards that they must spend one-third of their balances on water-supply in addition to the amount that has been spent by them in 1914-15 and 1915-16. I now understand the Hon'ble Mover of the Resolution wants Government only to request the District Boards to spend that particular sum on water-supply. As a matter of fact we have made repeated requests, and if those requests have failed to produce their effect, I doubt very much if another request will be more effective, but I do not admit that the Circulars that we have issued from time to time and our Resolutions have failed to produce any effect. I do not admit it, and although I would personally very much wish that more money was spent by District Boards on water-supply, I do not think that the case is at all hopeless. The figures for the last few years relating to expenditure on water-supply have been quoted, but I take the liberty to repeat them—

		Rs.
1912-13	... ...	2,00,000
1913-14	... ...	3,71,000
1914-15	... ...	5,96,000

The latest figures which probably were not available to my friends who have spoken on the Resolution are those of 1915-16. The amount spent in 1915-16 is

[*Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

Rs. 7,28,000, so that it must be admitted that there has been a steady progress in the expenditure of the District Boards on water-supply. There would be grave objection to tell all the District Boards that they must spend one-third of their balances on water-supply. The conditions of the various District Boards differ. The necessity for water-supply differs from district to district, and, as was pointed out in the discussion which took place in the Imperial Council, they differ from time to time. The closing balance is very deceptive. That has been shown by numerous speakers who have spoken on this subject. It does not show that the closing balance—the whole of it—is available for District Boards to spend as they like. Very often the closing balance includes sums of money which are already ear-marked for particular projects that they have not been able to carry out. It often happens that the closing balance shown at the end of the financial year, or a great deal of it at least, is wiped away a few months later on projects connected with earthwork which are generally in progress in March and end by about May. It may be that particular districts will have little or no closing balances at the end of the year. What the closing balance of 1916-17 will be, no one can say at the present moment, and it would not be right for Government to pass an order, even if Government were prepared to do so, which will compel every District Board, irrespective of their requirements, to spend a definite sum on a definite scheme. I have examined the figures for various years from 1913-14 to 1915-16 of the various District Boards in the province. Some of them show a great desire to spend more money on water-supply, and as regards those, it is not necessary for Government to goad them to more rapid progress. As has been pointed out by the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray, they may not have ready schemes and are not likely to have them in the short time that the Resolution permits them. It may not be possible for them to have matured schemes and by pressing them to spend money without such schemes, we may be compelling them to waste money which might otherwise be used on more useful purposes.

Now take the figures in respect of some of the District Boards. For instance in Burdwan in 1913-14, they spent Rs. 8,146 on water-supply, and in 1914-15 the figures rose to Rs. 54,000. According to my friend's Resolution, we must tell the Burdwan District Board they have not done their duty and that they should spend more money on water-supply. Then take the case of Hooghly : in 1913-14 the expenditure was Rs. 6,914 ; in 1915-16 it rose to Rs. 16,000.

In the 24-Parganas from Rs. 6,800 the expenditure rose to Rs. 36,500.

In Nadia from Rs. 10,600 to Rs. 29,800.

In Murshidabad from Rs. 6,500 to Rs. 16,600.

In Dacca from Rs. 33,754 to Rs. 51,000.

In Chittagong from Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 63,000.

In Noakhali from Rs. 3,679 to Rs. 44,378.

In Rajshahi from Rs. 8,593 to Rs. 22,595.

In Malda from Rs. 5,300 to Rs. 12,241.

These figures show that it would not be right to say that the District Boards generally are apathetic or that the official Chairman of the District Board stands in the way of money being spent on water-supply. Even without this indication of the desire on the part of the District Boards to rise to their responsibilities, there is the question of principle which we cannot ignore. Reference has been made to the recommendations of the Decentralisation Committee. The Committee, in paragraph 778 of their Report, distinctly recommended that District Boards should be fettered as little as

[*Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

possible in spending their resources. When the Public Works Cess was made over to the District Boards, the Government of India said that they left it to the Local Government to determine, if necessary, to what specific projects this increased income should be devoted, but they trusted that a substantial portion of this sum would be set apart for the improvement of rural water-supply, for anti-malarial measures and generally for the improvement of village sanitation. In accordance with this letter, and probably not exactly understanding what the Government of India meant, we drafted our Cess Bill, and in that way reserved the power of laying down the proportion in which the Public Works Cess was to be used for specific purposes, but when we submitted the Bill to the Government of India they said that we had misunderstood their intentions and they thought that it would be sufficient to reserve to the Local Government a general power of control to be kept in reserve and exercised only in cases of default by any particular Board not providing for any particular service. That was the direction which the Government of India gave us, and, considering that we are dealing with self-governing bodies, I think it is a sound matter of principle that Government should cease from interfering with the discretion of these bodies.

A great deal of argument has been adduced on the question as to whether these Boards, with only half-appointed Members and only half-elected Members, can be said to be representative bodies, or in a true sense self-governing bodies. I do not think I should enter into a discussion of a side issue like this, but it is sufficient for me to say, in the first place, that although there may not be an elected majority in the District Boards there is a non-official majority in the Boards, for, under section 7 of the Act, not more than one-half of the appointed Members may be salaried servants of Government. The result is that only one-fourth can be official Members.

One of my Hon'ble friends remarked, that he made no distinction between official Members and non-official Members appointed by Government. We have our own experience of this in this Council. We have our appointed non-official Members, and if you look to the debates of this Council and to the division lists, you will find that the non-official Members who were appointed by Government have voted against Government more often than they have voted on the side of Government. However, this is only a side issue. I would assume for the present that these Boards are not self-governing bodies in the sense in which many of my Hon'ble friends would like to use that expression, but they will be glad to learn that we are soon going to advance in that direction. It may be within the recollection of this Council that when a Resolution was moved last year by Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee for the improvement and development of self-governing bodies in Bengal, I informed the Council that we were contemplating an elected majority in the constitution of these Boards. We were then thinking of establishing Village Unions all over Bengal, and I am glad to find that most of my Hon'ble friends have recognised that with the establishment of the Village Unions most of these difficulties will disappear. As regards this matter we have not been idle; we have drafted a Bill which is ready and which will now be considered by the Commissioners at their Conference, and after that we hope to send the Bill to the Government of India as early as possible for their sanction, and I may be permitted to hope that next year in the beginning of the Session we will be able to introduce that Bill. When we have done that, the practical question will probably be solved, because it is our desire that these Boards should be financed largely out of the Public Works Cess. When the Public Works Cess is distributed among the Village Unions, no one will say that they would be unmindful of their own interests. At any rate, there will be no obstructive District Magistrate, as my Hon'ble friends are disposed to look at him, to prevent them from doing what is best in their interests. These Union Committees, as I said once before, would be put on an elective basis, and they will choose the Members for what will be called the Circle Boards, which will supplant the present Local Boards; and when the

[*Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

Circle Boards are established, we propose that they should elect one-third of the Members of the District Boards. This is what we contemplate and this is what we hope in the course of a few months to bring into practice, and I am perfectly certain if my Hon'ble friend would consider this, he would find that this is undoubtedly the best solution of the problem. I hope it is only a question of a few months. My Hon'ble friend's Resolution, even if it were carried, will take as much time, probably more, to give effect to it. From what the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray has said, I am inclined to think that the time given to District Boards to frame their schemes is rather short, and they would not be able to frame their schemes within the time that the Resolution wants them to do. In any case, the Resolution carries us to the next year because it refers to one-third of the closing balance of 1916-17 to be spent in 1917-18. I trust that it will be possible before 1917-18 to put into operation our scheme of village self-government. The Resolution therefore loses much of its practical importance. It is clear from the figures I have quoted that all the District Boards are not remiss in their duties; but what we will do is this, and I hope it will satisfy the Hon'ble Mover, as well as those who have supported it, we shall examine the figures for the last year and if we find that any particular District Board has neglected its duty in this direction, we will, instead of passing a general order or making any general request, deal with that particular Board as one in default. This is what we propose to do, and I believe that this will be accepted by my Hon'ble friends as a solution of the difficulty that has been troubling them. Probably, it is not known to many Hon'ble Members, at least I have not heard it referred to, that we did, as early as the year 1912, ask the District Boards to have a water survey, and I believe all the District Boards—there may be some exceptions, I cannot say—have completed this water survey. But a mere survey is not enough. They require an organisation for carrying out the work, and it was only last year that we told them they were not to look up the Public Works Cess in any recurring expenditure of any kind. Our object was that they may be prepared to make over the Public Works Cess when Union Committees come into existence without any inconvenience.

A great deal has been said as regards the Circular which insisted on the villagers contributing one-third of the cost of the excavation of tanks. That Circular was issued long ago, and it was issued long before the Public Works Cess was assigned to the District Boards. I believe that after the assignment of the Public Works Cess many District Boards have not felt themselves fettered by that Circular. The Circular issued in 1915 would be sufficient authority for District Boards willing to spend more money, to relax that condition. However, as it has been said that that Circular stands in the way, we will consider the desirability of withdrawing it. That will enable the District Boards to spend more freely money on water-supply than they have done, but there are other difficulties pointed out by the Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray that stand in the way. The one-third contribution was insisted on in days when the District Boards had not sufficient money, and when Government promised to pay a certain portion of the money spent on water-supply. It was done with the object of taking something from the owners of tanks who wanted their tanks to be excavated at the cost of the District Boards. I think it was eminently a just demand. Experience has, however, shown that the system of entering into contracts with owners of old silted up tanks, to dig their tanks at the cost of Government, has not been as successful as it was originally expected. It often happened that some co-sharer who did not disclose himself when the contract was entered into, turned up when the tank was excavated, and said that he had a share in the tank and that he had not agreed to the terms. This difficulty has induced District Boards in many places to acquire lands and to excavate new tanks of their own instead of excavating tanks of private persons. I consider this to be more satisfactory than the old practice. I think that in such cases the District Boards will not demand any contribution from the

[*Mr. P. C. Mitter; Babu S. N. Ray.*]

villagers. However, if the old Circular still stands in the way, we shall consider whether it should not be withdrawn.

I am sorry, my Lord, that I have to oppose the Resolution, both on the general principle of non-interference with the discretion of local bodies as well as on the ground that my Hon'ble friend has not proved by the figures he has quoted that the District Boards have gone so hopelessly wrong in this matter that it is necessary for the local Government to exercise their power of control and correction. It may be—I do not admit that it is so—that the District Boards do not now truly represent the rural people, but very soon, as I have said already, they will be so represented; and I do not think that it is desirable that we should take a step now which a few months hence will be considered as a retrograde step and an unnecessary interference with the liberties of self-governing bodies. For these reasons I am sorry that I am not able to accept either the original Resolution or the amendment proposed by the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem.

As regards the road cess it is probably correct that under the present conditions village roads do not receive the same attention from the District Boards that they deserve. There may be a great deal of force in that argument; but, as I have said, the whole question will be solved when the villagers themselves make their own roads. Hon'ble Members should not, as I have said, insist on Government taking a step which will be against their declared policy of non-interference with self-governing bodies. We have in recent years tried to relax the rules which constitute interference with District Boards to almost a minimum, and we do not wish to go back on what we have done. I hope what I have said will satisfy Hon'ble Members, and they will see their way to withdraw the Resolution and the amendment. As I have already said, instead of passing a general order, we will examine the cases of individual Boards, and, in regard to those in default, we will take such measures as we think best, in order to press upon them to spend more money on water-supply. I think I am going to meet the wishes of my Hon'ble friends as far as they can reasonably expect, and I hope this will be, for the present, considered quite enough, in view of all that I have said."

The Hon'ble MR. PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER said :—

"My friend, the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda, has said that the discussion has been helpful in clearing many points pertinent to this question, and from this point of view I desire to say a few words on some of the points that have been raised by my friends in the course of the discussion.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray has said that the Resolution is not practical as schemes are not ready and are not likely to be ready within the short time required by my Resolution, and the Hon'ble Nawab Sahib has supported him. But, my Lord, I desire to draw the attention of Hon'ble Members of this Council to the fact that so far back as the year 1912 in the Resolution passed after the informal Conference at Darjeeling, the District Boards were requested to prepare a water survey, and they were later on requested to prepare schemes. If in the course of these three or four years they have not been able to prepare their surveys and schemes, the chances are that if they go on as they have been going on in the past they will not be able to do anything even if ten years' time be given to them."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"That was before the Public Works Cess was handed over to the District Board."

[*Mr. P. C. Mitter; Maulvi Abul Kasem.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER, continuing, said :—

"Yes, only a few months before and you had about three years after the surrender, but, my Lord, the Hon'ble Member should remember that I ask the District Boards,—the 25 District Boards in Bengal,—to spend a sum of about 8 to 10 lakhs over an area of 67,000 square miles. Each District Board will have to prepare a scheme suitable to its local requirements although perhaps they have done nothing in the past; it ought not to be difficult for them to frame a scheme costing about Rs. 40,000 or Rs. 50,000 over an area of, say, 5,000 square miles. But, my Lord, after the assurance of the Hon'ble the Nawab Sahib that a new state of things will come into existence when we shall have the direct voice of the people who are affected and who pay the taxes, I hope that this deplorable state of affairs will no longer continue.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray has urged that the Resolution interferes with the liberties of local self-government, but my friend has not attempted to meet my reasons.

The Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray has said something about the impressions of a novice. My Lord, when a new mind is brought to bear upon a subject it might perhaps sometimes be helpful. Looking at the affairs of the District Board with which he has been connected for many years, I find a fairly deplorable state of things. In that particular District Board, I find, for example, in the year 1913-14 with a total income of Rs. 1,29,000 they have spent the splendid sum of Rs. 3,400, that is, less than 3 per cent. on water-supply. If I may be permitted to refer to another important question—vaccination—I may state that, that District Board as well as all the others with a total income of over a crore of rupees have spent the splendid sum of Rs. 800, and the particular district of Howrah spent the magnificent sum of Rs. 194. So perhaps sometimes questions examined by new minds may be helpful even to Members who have been there for a long time, but I can well appreciate their irritation.

My Lord, I do not propose to deal with the various points raised because after the Hon'ble Nawab Sahib's assurance, we have at any rate got this useful information that within a few months we may fairly expect that there will be real self-government, and if we have real village self-government, we may fairly expect the people to look after their own needs. As condition of things on the basis of which I ventured to place the Resolution before the Council will soon cease to exist. I do not wish to press the Resolution, and I beg leave to withdraw my Resolution."

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM said :—

"My Lord, after the remarks that have fallen from the Hon'ble Member in charge, I think the only course open to me is to withdraw the amendment. We are grateful, however, to the Government that steps are being taken to introduce local self-government in a true sense of the word in this part of the country."

Both the Resolution and the amendment were then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEMS—Nos. 7 and 8.

The following Resolutions which stood in the name of the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta were, by leave of the President, postponed to the next meeting of the Council.

[*Adjournment.*]

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that the system of Trial by Jury be introduced in all districts in Bengal for the trial of all offences before Courts of Session.

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that the Special Jury System, as contemplated by sub-section (2) of section 269 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, be introduced in all districts in Bengal.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council was then adjourned *sine die*.

A. M. HUTCHISON,

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal and Secy. to the Bengal Legislative Council (Offg.)

CALCUTTA.

The 22nd September, 1916.

B. S Press—1-2-1917—2704J—100—C. W. M.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in Government House on Wednesday, the 13th December, 1916, at 11 A.M.

Present:

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., *Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I., *Vice-President.*

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. N D. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble SURGEON-GENERAL W. R. EDWARDS, C.B., C.M.G.

The Hon'ble MR. F. J. MONAHAN.

The Hon'ble MR. C. J. STEVENSON-MOORE, C.V.O.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. DONALD.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. H. BOMPAS.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNELL.

The Hon'ble MR. S. W. GOODE.

The Hon'ble MR. H. P. DUVAL.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., AMIR-UL-OMRAH.

The Hon'ble SIR RAJENDRA NATH MOOKERJEE, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR.

The Hon'ble MR. J. MACKENZIE.

The Hon'ble MR. G. C. GODFREY.

The Hon'ble MR. AMINUR RAHMAN.

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. R. GLEN.

The Hon'ble MR. PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER.

The Hon'ble SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

The Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHAREswar RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble BABU ARUN CHANDRA SINHA.

The Hon'ble RAI DEBENDER CHUNDER GHOSE BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. K. H. BRAY.

The Hon'ble MR. A. BIRKMYRE.

The Hon'ble MR. E. B. EDEN.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. MARTIN.

The Hon'ble MR. H. R. A. IRWIN.

The Hon'ble MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY.

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM.

The Hon'ble MR. M. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ.

The Hon'ble MR. A. RASUL.

The Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY.

The Hon'ble MR. ALTAF ALI.

The Hon'ble RAI SRI NATH RAY BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA.

The Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. K. B. DUTT.

The Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 1.

OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stevenson-Moore, the Hon'ble Mr. Goode and the Hon'ble Mr. Duval made an oath of their allegiance to the Crown.

LIST OF BUSINESS—ITEM No. 2.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

Landlords' under the Bengal Tenancy Act.

* 1. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how the money deposited in the Collectorate for landlords' fees under the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885 (VIII of 1885), is disposed of?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that money-order commission is realised from the depositors of landlords' fees for the transmission of money to landlords, but that in many cases the money is not so transmitted?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state what amount is in deposit under the head of Landlords' fees, and money-order commission, in the several district treasuries, and how it is intended to dispose of the same?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to Rules 24 to 28 of the Rules under the Bengal Tenancy Act which were published with Notification No. 11574 L.R., dated December 7th, 1914. By virtue of clauses (*3*) and (*4*) of section 189 of the Bengal Act these rules have the force of law.

(*b*) Yes. Sections 12, 13 and 15 of the Bengal Tenancy Act require the deposit of money-order commission in all cases falling within the scope of those sections In cases in which there is more than one landlord and no common agent or manager the money-order commission is not used unless a joint application is made by the several landlords for payment to any individual. Steps have been taken to revise the Rules under the Bengal Tenancy Act, in order to make it clear that when landlords' fees have been forfeited, the money-order commission in deposit will be repaid on application to the depositor or his heirs.

(*c*) The compilation of the figures asked for would entail an amount of labour which would be out of proportion to their value. The following figures, however, show the extent to which landlords' fees have been paid out to landlords during the past three years :—

	Amount received	Amount paid out	Percentage paid.
	Rs.	Rs.	
1913-14 .	1,53,653	93,306	60·72
1914-15 ...	1,43,378	1,11,292	77·62
1915-16	1,63,552	1,04,416	63·84

In accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules under the Bengal Tenancy Act, all landlords' fees which cannot be paid out within three years of the service of the prescribed notice become liable to forfeiture and, on being declared to be forfeited, they are at the disposal of Government

The amount of money-order commission which is held in deposit will remain in deposit until it is used as money-order commission or is returned on the application of the depositor or his heirs after the landlords' fees to which it relates have been forfeited."

By the Hon'ble MR. K. B. DUTT :—

Separation Executive Judicial functions.

* 2. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any scheme for the separation of the executive and judicial functions has been submitted to the Government of this Presidency or to the public for criticism?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any experiment has been made in this Presidency towards the separation of executive and judicial functions as outlined by Sir Harvey Adamson in his speech in the Imperial Legislative Council on the 27th March, 1908?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the result of such experiment?

(*d*) If the answer to clause (*b*) be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state whether the matter is at present under the consideration of the Government and, if so, when is the experiment likely to be tried?

Answer by the Hon ble MR. KERR :—

" The reply to the Hon'ble Member's questions is in the negative."

By the Hon'ble RAI DEBENDER CHUNDER GHOSE BAHADUR :—

he Calcutta nprovement rust.

* 3. (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the judgment of the Calcutta High Court in the case of *Chunder Kant Ghose* vs. *The Calcutta Improvement Trust?*

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of directing or advising the Calcutta Improvement Trust to restore, on the usual terms of restitution, to the Corporation of Calcutta and to private owners all lands outside alignments, which had belonged to them and which have been taken possession of by the said Trust before the said judgment was pronounced?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the introduction in the Legislative Council of any Bill, amending the existing Calcutta Improvement Act, and embodying provisions in connection with road and square schemes for the imposition of a frontage rate for recoupment owing to betterment, like that obtaining in London, Manchester and some states in America, in place of the method of recoupment by acquisition of selected outside lands hitherto adopted by the Calcutta Improvement Trust?

(*d*) Was there any reason for not embodying such provisions in the Bill which subsequently became Bengal Act V of 1911? If so, what were those reasons?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of introducing a Bill amending the existing Calcutta Improvement Act, containing a provision making it obligatory on the acquiring authority to award, over and above the market value of the acquired property, the allowance of 15 per cent. on the same as provided for by the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (I of 1894)?

(*f*) Are the Government aware that the judgment of the Calcutta High Court in the case of *Chunder Kant Ghose* vs. *The Calcutta Improvement Trust* has resulted in the diminution of work in the office of the Improvement Trust?

(*g*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of directing the Calcutta Improvement Trust Board to reduce its present staff and establishment charges on that account?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) & (*e*) The Government of Bengal are not at present prepared to make an announcement of their intentions.

(*d*) When legislation for the improvement of Calcutta was first proposed provision was made for the imposition of a frontage rate, but this was vetoed by the Secretary of State.

(*f*) & (*g*) Orders have been issued for the temporary suspension of operations that would conflict with the ruling of Mukherji and Cuming, J.J., in the appeal from original decree No. 416 of 1916 (*Trustees for the Improvement of Calcutta* vs. *Chandra Kanta Ghosh*). Up to the present no reduction of establishment has been necessary on this account."

By the Hon'ble RAI DEBENDER CHUNDER GHOSE BAHADUR :—

Proposed passenger station Ultadinghi.

* 4. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has been decided to proceed at once with the project of constructing and starting a passenger station at Ultadinghi on the Eastern Bengal Railway for the convenience of the public, as indicated in the memorandum of the Government of Bengal (Railway Department) No. 2256 R. of the 3rd December, 1914?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :

" It has been decided to defer consideration of the question of constructing a passenger station at Ultadinghi for the present.

In the meantime, to give a better passenger service to Northern Calcutta, the Railway authorities are considering the question of laying a new line to the north of Chitpur yard with stations at the Belgachia overbridge and the Barrackpore overbridge, with a possible extension to Cossipore station."

By the Hon'ble RAI DEBENDER CHUNDER GHOSE BAHADUR —

Jessore Drainage Division.

* 5. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Public Works Division, known as the Jessore Drainage Division, ceased to exist after it had completed its investigations and submitted its schemes for the drainage of the Jessore Division and other neighbouring malarious districts of the Presidency Division?

(*b*) Has the result of the labours of the Jessore Drainage Division been examined and approved by the Government?

(*c*) If so, what are the projects so approved as affecting the Jessore and Nadia districts?

(*d*) Have the Government passed any orders directing that the recommendation of the Jessore Drainage Division, as regards these two districts, be taken in hand immediately after the termination of the war?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

" (*a*) It would be incorrect to say that the Jessore Drainage Division has ceased to exist after completion of investigations into the drainage conditions of the Jessore and other districts of the Presidency Division. In 1912 the Government of India sanctioned the creation of this Division for a period of two years only. At the expiry of this period this Government reported to the Government of India that they had sanctioned the retention of the Division for a further period of two years for further investigations. The second period of two years ended on the 16th September, 1916, and the Division as a Public Works Division has been closed with effect from that date in view of the shortage of superior staff of the Public Works Department owing to the absence of several officers on military duty. A temporary subdivision of the Nadia Rivers Division, to be called the Drainage Subdivision, has, however, been sanctioned for a further period of five months to continue certain investigations which are now in hand in the districts of Nadia and Murshidabad and to maintain the records of works hitherto in charge of the Jessore Drainage Division.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) Reports on the investigations carried out in the Jessore district have been submitted to Government, and are under the consideration of Government, but no projects have been finally approved. It will be impossible to pass final orders on these projects until the complete report of the Sanitary Commissioner to the Government of Bengal on the subject of malaria in Bengal has been received."

By the Hon'ble RAI DEBENDER CHUNDER GHOSE BAHADUR :—

tting up of kariah Street.

* 6. (*a*) Are the Government aware of the circumstances in which Zakariah Street, which joins Chitpur Road to Halliday Street, and which was newly made by the Calcutta Improvement Trust and handed over to the Corporation of Calcutta a few months ago, has been cut up by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation?

(*b*) Is it a fact that just before the transfer of the street to the Corporation Corporation of Calcutta a few months ago, has been cut up by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation whether they intended cutting up any portion of the new street in the near future and that the reply was that they did not?

(*c*) Is it a fact that shortly after the transfer the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation cut up the whole street for the purpose of laying down underground cables?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, the Oriental Gas Company and the Bengal Telephone Company, who are empowered by special legislative enactments to cut up public roads for their own purposes, do so without reference to the authority responsible for their maintenance?

(*e*) Are the Government aware that these bodies seldom restore the roads which they cut up to their original serviceable condition?

(*f*) Are the Government aware of the general complaint that the Corporation of Calcutta, who are responsible for the good order and condition of the public streets in Calcutta, are hampered by the action of the bodies referred to in clause (*d*) of this question?

(*g*) Are the Government considering the desirability of introducing measures for the amendment of the law with a view to give a controlling voice to the authority responsible for the maintenance of the city roads?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"(*a*) & (*c*) Zakariah Street was transferred to the Calcutta Corporation by the Improvement Trust on the 16th August, 1916. The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation wrote to the Corporation on the 8th September and expressed their intention of laying a main in Zakariah Street. A cable has been laid by the Company in the road, the footpath being also opened up for the execution of the work.

(*b*) The Improvement Trust wrote to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation on the 17th February, 1913, pointing out that all underground work should be executed before the roads were metalled and calling on the Company to submit plans showing the position of any lines or mains which they proposed to lay down. The Electric Supply Corporation replied on the 27th March, 1914, giving an estimate of the cost of a system of overhead mains for Zakariah Street and other streets within Improvement Scheme No. I. It was understood from the letter of the Company that there would be overhead wires, and that the Company would not require to lay underground cables. It was not, however, clearly stated in the correspondence that underground mains would not be laid. Copies of this correspondence are laid on the table.

(*d*), (*e*) & (*f*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to a reply given to a similar question by the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur at a meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 13th December, 1915, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(*g*) Government are not at present considering the amendment of the law on the subject."

Letters referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *to Question No. 6 starred) asked by the Hon'ble* RAI DEBENDER CHUNDER GHOSE BAHADUR *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

No. 121.

CALCUTTA IMPROVEMENT TRUST,
ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT,
5, CLIVE STREET.
Dated 17th February, 1913.

TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER,
Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

DEAR SIR,

Herewith please find two prints showing the area, known as Scheme No. 1, with which the Trust are about to deal.

No. 1 shows the existing arrangement of streets, lanes, etc., and No. 2 shows the area as it will be after treatment; and I should be greatly obliged if you would show on plan No. 1 any existing overhead or underground lines and mains you may have within the area, and on plan No. 2, the position of any lines, or mains, you propose should be laid down to conform to the new arrangement of streets. I am anxious that all underground work should be carried out before the roads are metalled, and in preparing our estimate, which I should be glad if you will submit along with the plans, you might allow for the fact that no macadam will require replacing. As I am desirous of submitting my detailed estimate for the scheme at an early date, I should take it as a favour if you would go into the matter immediately.

Please show the position, old and new, of any transformer houses, main fuse or switch boxes.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) J. M.,
Deputy Engineer.

THE CALCUTTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

No. 3681.

8, DALHOUSIE SQUARE.
Calcutta, 27th March, 1914.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER,
Calcutta Improvement Trust,
Calcutta.

Re Scheme No. 1.

DEAR SIR,

Referring to your letter No. 121 of the 17th of February, 1913, and our letter No. 2488 of the 4th March, 1913, we would say that the cost of a system of overhead mains for the new streets of this scheme would be Rs. 24,525. The cost of 32 new overhead services would be Rs. 3,040. We send herewith plan No. 1676 showing the proposed arrangement.

With reference to the lighting of these roads, we have arranged the positions of the poles so that each pole could carry a light; the number required would be 49 lights.

The initial cost of a system of lamps fixed on to our poles, complete with mains and switches ready for lighting, would be Rs 2,079, which is Rs. 42-7 per lamp.

The yearly maintenance cost of this system -estimating that each lamp would be of 64 British standard candle-power, which, we think is ample for these streets-- would be Rs. 39-6 for a lighting year of 3,914 hours.

The positions of the lights are shown on our plan No 1676.

Any further information we could give you on this matter we should be pleased to do so.

We are, etc.,

(Sd.)
Agent and Chief Engineer.

By the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY :—

The Government exodus to Darjeeling.

* 7. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the year from which the Government of Bengal began its annual trip to Darjeeling?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of Gazetted Officers who accompanied the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal to Darjeeling during the three years previous to the opening of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway, and the offices which used to move to Darjeeling during that period;

(*ii*) the number of such officers and offices during the Lieutenant-Governorship of Sir Rivers Thompson, Sir Steuart Bayley, Sir John Woodburn, Sir Andrew Fraser and Sir Edward Baker, as well as the number during the first four years of the administration of His Excellency Lord Carmichael?

(*c*) Will the Government also be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by Government, year by year on their move to Darjeeling during the periods referred to?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"(*a*) Information is not available as to the exact year. Darjeeling has been the headquarters of Government during the hot weather for over 50 years.

(*b*) (*i*) The information is not available.

(*b*) (*ii*) & (*c*) A statement giving the expenditure so far as available is placed on the table. The figures include the offices of the Private Secretary and Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor. It may be noted that Heads of Departments who accompany the Government to Darjeeling do so at their own expense."

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *to question No. 7 (starred) asked by the Hon'ble* BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916, showing the number of Gazetted Officers and offices who accompanied Government to Darjeeling during the Lieutenant-Governorship of* SIR RIVERS THOMPSON, SIR STEUART BAYLEY, SIR JOHN WOODBURN, SIR ANDREW FRASER *and* SIR EDWARD BAKER *and the Governorship of His Excellency* LORD CARMICHAEL *and the expenditure incurred by Government, year by year, on their move to Darjeeling.*

	Year	Number of offices	Number of gazetted officers.	Cost.
				Rs.
Sir Rivers Thompson ...	...	...	...	...
Sir Steuart Bayley ...	1888	10	...	33,158
	1889	11	...	29,768
	1890	10	...	29,780
Sir John Woodburn ...	1898	10	...	43,971
	1899	11	...	46,594
	1900	10	...	60,227
	1901	12	...	63,591
	1902	13	...	67,913
Sir Andrew Fraser ...	1904	12	...	98,616
	1905	7	...	94,480
	1906	12	...	98,446
	1907	13	...	1,17,459
	1908	13	...	89,945
Sir Edward Baker ...	1909	13	...	1,02,220
	1910	11	...	92,735
	1911	11	28	93,114
Lord Carmichael ...	1912	11	29	88,861
	1913	14	35	96,568
	1914	15	33	68,749
	1915	15	34	91,843

* Figures not available.

By the Hon'ble Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray :—

Effect of cyclone and floods in September, 1916.

* 8. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to make a statement as to the nature and extent of the damage caused by cyclone and floods in September last and during the Durga Pujas, in the various parts of the Province?

(*b*) Have the prospects of crops been prejudicially affected by the same? If so, to what extent?

(*c*) Has any distress resulted, or are there indications of impending distress in any part of the Province? If so, what is the estimated extent thereof in each area?

(*d*) What steps have been taken or are contemplated by Government for the purpose of meeting the situation?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr :—

" (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) Damage was caused by floods in September and October in the Burdwan and Chittagong Divisions: the damage caused by cyclones, apart from the resulting floods, was not extensive.

For information regarding the Burdwan Division, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to the question of the Hon'ble Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur.

In the Chittagong Division damage was caused by floods in the districts of Tippera and Noakhali and in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

In Tippera district breaches in the embankment of the Gumti river caused floods in an area of 100 square miles and the destruction of the transplanted winter rice crop on an area of about 50 square miles: the long-stalked rice was not badly damaged, but the extent of the damage to the winter rice crop as a whole in the flood-affected area was about 12 annas. This area has had good harvests in recent years and distress is not expected

In Noakhali district the crops were totally destroyed in an area of about 35 square miles and were seriously damaged in a further area of 15 square miles: in the affected area a fairly good crop of autumn rice had been harvested in 1916, but the winter rice had been seriously damaged in the previous year, and distress is expected in March 1917. Rupees 4,500 was advanced under the Agriculturists Loans Act for the purchase of seed for *rabi* crops and *boro* rice, and together with the advances made by Co-operative Societies this sum is, in the opinion of the Commissioner, sufficient for the present: the situation is being carefully watched and provision is being made for further relief when it is required.

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts very extensive damage was done by floods to the lands under plough cultivation in the valleys, and in some places 12 annas of the winter rice crop has been destroyed: inquiry is still going on and the exact extent of the damage has not yet been ascertained. Distress is expected in April 1917 and provision is being made for giving relief when the situation makes it necessary."

By the Hon'ble Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray :—

Resistance to dacoits by the public.

* 9. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state in how many instances, and where, during the past three or four months, dacoits have been resisted or caught by the people of the locality without any aid from the police?

(*b*) In what manner were the dacoits and the people, respectively, armed, and what was their comparative numerical strength, approximately, in each case?

(*c*) What have been the resulting casualties, if any, among the people?

(*d*) Did any member of the public, on any of these occasions, display bravery which, in the opinion of Government, merits recognition? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the names of such persons, and the manner in which it is desired to signify approbation of their conduct, if at all?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of encouraging such acts of bravery by—

(*i*) instituting medals or other decorations for marking such acts, quite apart from rewards in any existing forms;

(*ii*) exempting such persons from the operation of the Arms Act, at least for a stated period as a trial; and

(*iii*) granting allowances or gratuities to the families of those persons who may be killed, or pensions to those who may be permanently disabled in skirmishes with dacoits?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) In the last four months dacoits have been resisted by the people of the locality in nine cases, viz., two each in Hooghly and Birbhum, and one each in Murshidabad, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Tippera and Mymensingh.

(*b*) In three of these cases the dacoits were armed with guns and pistols and in the others with *lathis*, *daos* or axes. In two cases the villagers were armed with guns, and in the rest with *lathis*, etc. In one case the numerical strength of the dacoits was about 30, in two cases between 15 and 20, in two cases between 10 and 12, and in four cases between 6 and 7. The number of villagers who resisted the dacoits cannot be given.

(*c*) Casualties occurred in two cases. In all, 6 persons were killed and 8 wounded.

(*d*) The villagers displayed conspicuous bravery in the Lalitasar dacoity in the Tippera district: five persons, viz., Purna Datta, Gaur Kishor Datta, Golamuddin, Hamidali Haji and a boy named Gadu Meah, were killed, and five, viz., Banga Pal, Jabbarali, Dula Mian, Tilakbir and Jan Muhammad were wounded. Great courage was also displayed in the Parail dacoity in the Mymensingh district: three persons, viz., Gopal Chaukidar, Inchan Shaikh and Faizuddi Shaikh, were wounded while opposing the dacoits. In the Altara dacoity of the Hooghly district, the complainant (Nitai Ghosh) showed great bravery and shot one of the dacoits. The question of making provision for the families of the deceased villagers and of rewarding the wounded persons and others who took an active part in the pursuit of the dacoits is now under the consideration of the local officers.

(*e*) Government do not consider that the grant of medals and decorations or exemption from the provision of the Arms Act would be suitable forms of rewards in cases of this nature; but bravery in resisting dacoits would constitute a strong claim to the grant of an arms license. Government are always prepared to consider the question of making provision for persons who have been permanently disabled or for the families of persons who have been killed in resisting dacoits."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Overcrowding in jails.

* 10. What steps have been taken to remedy the overcrowding in jails to which the report on the Bengal Jails for 1915 drew attention?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" To prevent overcrowding, arrangements have been made for the erection of extra wards and sheds in some of the jails, and Government have made a special grant for the purpose. Eleven such sheds have been built up to date, and, in addition, certain worksheds and godowns have been altered and made suitable for the accommodation of prisoners. There has, within the last three months, been a steady decline in the number of prisoners confined, and at present there is no general pressure on accommodation."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Proposed central committee for the Juvenile Jail.

* 11. Has any decision been arrived at regarding Lieutenant-Colonel Buchanan's proposal for the formation of a central committee, consisting of officials and non-officials, in Calcutta, for the Juvenile Jail, and also of local committees in the mufassal, having, among other objects, that of helping juvenile convicts in securing suitable work after their release, and guarding them from relapsing into crime when restored to free life?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" The matter has been delayed owing to Lieutenant-Colonel Buchanan's absence on leave, but he is now dealing with it and will submit definite proposals as early as possible."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

"Special class" prisoners.

* 12. (*a*) With regard to the " special class " prisoners mentioned in the administration report on jails, will the Government be pleased to state what classes of prisoners are included in this term?

(*b*) What special precautions, if any, are taken in guarding the " special class " prisoners? Are they kept in solitary cells? Are fetters generally imposed on them for safe custody?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) ' Special class ' prisoners are prisoners convicted of or undergoing trial for offences of a political nature. This class does not include State prisoners or persons detained under the provisions of the Foreigners Ordinance (Act III of 1914), the Ingress into India Ordinance (Act V of 1914), or the Defence of India Act (Act IV of 1915).

(*b*) ' Special class ' prisoners are not specially separated from other prisoners, but a special watch is kept over their associates in jail and their correspondence. They are not kept in solitary cells, nor are fetters imposed on them for safe custody "

By the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR :—

Complaints against the Lady Dufferin Hospital authorities.

* 13. (*a*) Are the Government aware of the several complaints that have been made against the management of the Lady Dufferin Hospital and against the way in which patients and their guardians are treated by the hospital authorities?

(*b*) Have the Government instituted any inquiry into the matter? If so, what has been the result of the inquiry?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative. The Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital, Calcutta, is not a Government Institution. Any complaints should be addressed to the Managing Committee of the Hospital."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Rules regarding admission and transfer of students in Eastern and Western Bengal

* 14. (*a*) Are the Government aware that a notification, dated the 15th August, 1910, issued by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam prescribing certain rules regarding the admission, withdrawal, rustication and expulsion of students, is still in force in the Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions?

(*b*) If so, are the Government aware of the great divergence which subsists between these rules and those in force in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions?

(*c*) Is it a fact that under the rules referred to above, the students in Eastern and Northern Bengal are subjected to greater hardships and difficulties in getting transfers from one school to another and are, besides, compelled to pay the fees for an entire term both to the institution which they leave and the institution which they join in the midst of a term, as defined by such rules?

(*d*) Are there any such terms for the schools in Western Bengal, and are the students in Western Bengal required in cases of transfers to pay such fees twice for the same period?

(*e*) Are the classes in the high and middle English schools numbered inversely in Eastern and Western Bengal? If so, are the Government aware that this causes confusion, and are they taking any action to alter this arrangement?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of withdrawing the notification of the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam referred to above, and of placing the students in Eastern and Western Bengal on an equal footing and under the same conditions as regards admissions and transfers from one school to another, and also as regards the division of a session of a term, as well as the payment of fees consequent on any transfer or withdrawal?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

"(*a*) & (*f*) It was intended to supersede the rules issued by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam by those approved by this Government in letter No. 742, dated the 23rd March, 1916, of which a copy is laid on the table. The latter rules were, however, found defective in some respects, and their operation has been temporarily suspended in the Dacca Division. Their revision is under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction.

(*b*) Government are aware of the divergencies between the Eastern Bengal rules and the rules issued in March, 1916, and their final co-ordination is under consideration.

(*c*) Under the Eastern Bengal rules, the school year is divided into three terms. A student transferred during a term is liable to payment of fees for the whole term to the school which he leaves, and a fee proportionate to the remaining period of the term to the school which he joins. The latter may be remitted by the Managing Committee.

(*d*) The school year has not been divided into terms in Western Bengal and there is consequently no such rule.

(*e*) Classes in middle schools in Western Bengal are numbered inversely as in Eastern Bengal, but there are different systems of numbering classes in high schools. It will not be possible to prescribe a uniform system of numbering until a revised and uniform curriculum is prescribed."

Rules for the admission and withdrawal of pupils in schools referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL *to Question No. 14 (starred) asked by the Hon'ble* BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

No. 742, dated Calcutta, the 23rd March, 1916.

From—THE HON'BLE MR. K. C. DE, C.I.E., I.C.S., Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department,

To—The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

I AM directed to forward herewith a revised set of rules for the admission and withdrawal of pupils in schools in this province, duly approved by Government.

RULES FOR THE ADMISSION AND WITHDRAWAL OF PUPILS.

[NOTE 1. These rules are applicable to all public schools, *i.e.*, schools which adopt standards prescribed by the department or by the University, and which either are inspected by, or present pupils at the public examinations of, the department or the University.

2. "Department" means in the case of middle and primary schools, the Deputy Inspector of Schools, and, in the case of other schools, the Inspector of Schools. In the case of girls' schools, for "Inspector" read "Inspectress" and for "Deputy Inspector" or "Sub-Inspector" read "Assistant Inspectress."

3. The school session is the same as the calendar year, but for pupils permitted to appear at the Matriculation Examination, the session ends in the month in which the first day of that examination falls.]

SECTION I.

Primary Schools.

1. When a pupil seeks admission for the first time to a public school, his parent or guardian shall accompany him and shall declare

in writing that he has never before attended any public school. He shall also produce evidence (such as a horoscope) of the pupil's age or shall declare in writing that he can produce no evidence, in which case he shall record in writing the true age of the pupil to the best of his knowledge and belief. The age shall be recorded in years, months and days, calculated according to the English method.

2. A pupil who has attended a public school shall not be admitted to another public school except on production of a withdrawal certificate (Appendix A). In such cases, the pupil's parent or guardian shall accompany him or shall provide him with a letter of application for admission.

3. Withdrawal certificates obtained from schools from which scholarship rights have been withdrawn shall not be accepted unless they have been countersigned by the Deputy Inspector of Schools.

4. A pupil shall not, on admission, be placed in a class higher than that which his withdrawal certificate shows him to be entitled to enter.

5. A withdrawal certificate shall not be granted to a pupil except on payment of all sums due on his account up to the date of application for the certificate. If the pupil withdrew from the school without written notice before such date he shall be required to pay all sums due on his account up to the date of such withdrawal and may in addition be required to pay the class fees for the period between such date and the date of application for a withdrawal certificate or for a period of three months, whichever shall be less.

6. Applications for withdrawal certificates shall be made by the parent or guardian of a pupil either personally or by letter. On the day of receipt of an application, the head teacher shall either grant a certificate or inform the applicant in writing of his reasons for refusing a certificate together with a statement of dues in detail. No fee shall be charged for the grant of a certificate.

7. All questions arising from these rules shall be referred to the Sub-Inspector of Schools, from whose decision an appeal may be made to the Deputy Inspector. The latter's decision shall be final.

8. Wilful transgression by a school of any of these rules will render it liable to forfeit the right to present candidates at the departmental scholarship examinations.

Section II.

Schools other than primary.

1. When a pupil, who has never attended any public school, seeks admission for the first time to a public school, other than a primary school, his parent or guardian shall, if possible, accompany him and shall declare in writing that he has never before attended any public school. He shall also produce evidence (such as a horoscope) of the pupil's age or shall declare in writing that he can produce no evidence, in which case he shall record in writing the true age of the pupil to the best of his knowledge and belief. The age shall be recorded in years, months and days, calculated according to the English method. If it is not possible for the parent or guardian to accompany the pupil, a person authorized on that behalf in writing shall do so.

2. A pupil who has attended a public school shall not be admitted into another public school except on production of a withdrawal certificate (Appendix A or B). If the certificate is in the form given in Appendix B, both original and duplicate copies must be presented. He shall also produce a letter of application for admission from his parent or guardian stating the condition of his residence.

3. The statement of age contained in a certificate obtained from a primary school may be called in question, and the parent or guardian of the pupil may be required to produce evidence or to make a declaration in the manner prescribed in rule 1.

4. A pupil who presents a withdrawal certificate from a school from which scholarship rights have been withdrawn, or from a school from which he has been expelled, shall not be admitted without the sanction of the department.

5. Without the sanction of the department a pupil shall not be admitted who presents a certificate in which the date of withdrawal is not less than six months previous to the date of application for admission.

6. Without the sanction of the department a pupil shall not be admitted between the Puja vacation and the end of the session if he presents a withdrawal certificate granted more than a month previous to the date of application for admission.

7. Except at the commencement of a session no pupil shall be admitted with a certificate of withdrawal from any school within a radius of three miles without the sanction of the department.

8. No pupil shall be provisionally admitted without the sanction of the Inspector of Schools.

9. On admission, a pupil shall be required to pay an admission fee equivalent to one month's fee of the class into which he is admitted. (Sons and wards of Government officers whose application for admission is due to the transfer of their parents and guardians are exempt from the payment of an admission fee.)

10. A pupil whose name has been struck off the roll on account of non-payment of fees, may be readmitted—

(*i*) in the month following that in which his name has been struck off on payment of all sums due to the school, together with a fine of eight annas in the case of a middle school, or a fine of one rupee in the case of any other school ;

(*ii*) in any other month on payment of all sums due to the school, together with an admission fee equivalent to one month's fee of his class.

11. A pupil shall not, on admission, be placed in a class higher than that which his withdrawal certificate shows him to be entitled to enter except with the sanction of the department. Every application for such sanction shall be accompanied by a report from the headmaster of the result of an admission test.

12. Pupils who, before admission, have not attended any public school, shall undergo an admission test. No such pupil shall be placed in a class higher than the 4th class of a high school without the sanction of the Inspector.

13. No pupil who has attained the age of fourteen years shall be admitted into any class of a Government high school below the fourth without the sanction of the Inspector. Sanction will ordinarily be given as a matter of course in the case of middle vernacular scholarship-holders and also in the case of members of the backward classes when there is no high school under private management in the neighbourhood.

14. A pupil shall not be promoted to a higher class after admission under the foregoing rules and before the next annual class examination, except with the sanction of the department.

15. No pupil who has failed at the test examination of any public school shall be admitted from another school to the next ensuing matriculation examination.

16. Every application for a certificate of withdrawal shall be made in writing to the headmaster by the pupil's parent or guardian. The headmaster shall, within three days of receipt of the application, either grant the certificate or inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for refusal.

17. A certificate shall not be refused except for one or more of the following reasons :—

(*i*) The pupil has been rusticated.

(*ii*) The pupil has been guilty of gross misconduct (The fact that a pupil has been expelled shall not be adduced as a reason for refusal. The certificate shall state that the pupil has been expelled).

(*iii*) The withdrawal is sought on account of disciplinary action taken by the masters of the school.

(*iv*) The sums due on account of the pupil up to the date of withdrawal together with the certificate fee, if any, have not been paid.

(*v*) The withdrawal will occur between the Puja vacation and the end of the session.

(*vi*) The pupil is a Government scholarship-holder.

No certificate shall be granted in cases (*i*) and (*vi*) except with the sanction of the department.

In case (*c*) a certificate shall not be granted till after the publication of the results of the annual class examination except for special reasons and with the sanction of the department.

Cases of refusal under (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) shall be immediately reported by the headmaster to the department. The applicant may represent his case to the department in such cases and also if a certificate is not issued within three days of the payment of dues to the school. The decision of the officer to whom the representation may be made shall be final.

18. When a pupil of one of the two senior classes of a high school has held a scholarship, free studentship or half-free studentship under express stipulation in writing, signed by himself and his father or guardian that the whole or a portion of the sum drawn by, or remitted to, him, shall be refunded to the school in case of withdrawal from it within a certain period, the amount so claimed shall be included in the sums due on account of the pupil for the purpose of the preceding rule, provided it does not exceed the amount actually drawn or remitted.

Special rules which are in contravention of the preceding rule shall not be recognized by the department unless they are agreed to *in writing* both by pupils and by their parents or guardians.

19. If it appears—

(*a*) that the granting of a certificate is being unnecessarily delayed, or

(*b*) that a lengthy correspondence is likely to take place before a settlement can be arrived at, or

(*c*) that a certificate is being refused on inadequate grounds,

a provisional certificate may be given by the department on the condition that the pupil's parent or guardian undertakes to pay whatever sum may be subsequently determined by the department to be due to the school from which the pupil has been withdrawn. In case of (*c*) action will at once be taken under rule 29.

20. The date of withdrawal of a pupil is the date on which his name is struck off the roll. A pupil's name shall be struck off the roll—

(*a*) on the last day of the month for which fees (including late payment fines) have not been paid, except in cases of rustication for more than a month, when the name shall not be struck off for non-payment of fees until the last day of the third month of rustication, or the last day of rustication if the rustication be for a period of less than three months, or

(*b*) on the day on which all sums due on his account are paid preparatory to withdrawal (with or without a certificate).

21. The following fees shall be payable when the date of withdrawal comes under the definition contained in rule 20 (*b*) :—

(*i*) Nil when the date of withdrawal is at the close of the session.

(*ii*) When the date of withdrawal is not at the close of the session, an amount equivalent to one month's fees, provided the date of withdrawal does not fall between the Puja vacation and the end of the session.

(*iii*) In addition to the fee under (*ii*) an amount equivalent to the fees payable up to the end of the ensuing vacation if the date of withdrawal falls in a month immediately preceding a recognized vacation of more than 15 days' duration and the withdrawal is not consequent upon the transfer of the parent or guardian of the pupil nor is due to the ill-health of the pupil.

(*iv*) An amount equivalent to the fees payable up to the end of the session if the date of withdrawal falls between the Puja vacation and the end of the session.

(NOTE.—Sons and wards of Government officers whose withdrawal is due to the transfer of their parents or guardians are exempt from payment of these fees.)

22. When the date of withdrawal comes under the definition contained in rule 20 (*a*) the fee for a withdrawal certificate shall be an amount equivalent to a month's fees of the class of which the pupil was a member, together with the amount, whichever is greater, (*a*) that would be payable under rule 21 if the date of payment of all sums due were the date of withdrawal, or (*b*) that would be payable under rule 21 if it applied to the date of withdrawal to which this rule refers.

23. No pupil shall be sent up for the Matriculation examination who is not eligible for a withdrawal certificate on the date on which the examination begins.

24. Government scholarship-holders are required to pay the same withdrawal and admission fees as other students. The transfer of scholarships requires the sanction of the department under the scholarship rules.

25. Withdrawal certificates shall be in triplicate and marked "original," "duplicate," "triplicate." The triplicate and duplicate copies will be retained in the issuing and receiving school respectively. The original shall be returned to the issuing school after a pupil's admission and shall be attached to the triplicate copy. The pupil's name as entered on the certificate shall not be altered at the time of admission, but shall be entered in the admission register for future reference.

26. Copies of the original and duplicate withdrawal certificates may be granted on receipt of a fee of one rupee, provided the original has not been returned to the issuing school.

27. All questions arising between one headmaster and another respecting the enforcement of these rules shall be referred as soon as possible to the department. The decision of the Inspector shall be final.

28. If a pupil be found to have produced a false document or to have made a false statement as to his attendance at any school he shall be reported to the Inspector of Schools, who shall award a suitable punishment.

29. Any departure from these rules in particular instances shall require the sanction of the Inspector of Schools.

30. Wilful transgression or attempted evasion of any of these rules shall render a school liable to the withdrawal of scholarship rights.

APPENDIX A.

[To be printed in vernacular.]

CERTIFIED that _____,

son of _____,

an inhabitant of _____, in thana _____,

and in district _____, was in $\frac{\text{standard}}{\text{class}}$ $\frac{\text{(Western Bengal)}}{\text{(Eastern Bengal)}}$.

of the _____ school up to * and left with a _____ character.

* Date on which name struck off the roll.

His age on that date is believed to have been † years _____ † months _____ † days.

† In words and figures.

All sums due to the school have been paid. He $\frac{\text{has}}{\text{has not}}$ passed the annual examination for promotion to $\frac{\text{standard}}{\text{class}}$ $\frac{\text{(Western Bengal)}}{\text{(Eastern Bengal)}}$.

Date *Head Teacher.*

_____ School { Government / District Board / Municipality / Aided by { Government / District Board / Municipality / Unaided

Village _____ P.-O. _____

District _____

APPENDIX B.

[To be printed in triplicate and kept in a book.]

CERTIFIED that _____

son of _____

an inhabitant of _____, in district of _____,

* Date of withdrawal.

was in class _____ of the { Government / District Board / Municipality / Aided by { Government / District Board / Municipality } / Unaided } school up to _____

His age on that day is believed to have been _____

† In words and figures.

† years _____ † months _____ † days.

All sums due to the school on his account have been paid.

He { has / has not } passed the annual examination for promotion to { standard / class }

{ (Western Bengal) / (Eastern Bengal) }

(*a*) Reasons for leaving the school _____
(state if "failure of promotion" has been put forward as a reason).

(*b*) Remarks as to character and conduct _____

(*c*) Character of attendance _____

Date _____ *Head Master.*

P.-O _____,

District _____.

By the Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar :—

Subordinate Educational Service.

* 15. (*a*) Are the Government aware of the complaint that the Education Department is receiving less attention than any other department as regards the pay and prospect of the officers in the subordinate service?

(*b*) Is it a fact that not long ago assistant teachers in Government institutions, like the Dacca Collegiate School and the Krishnagar Collegiate School, were appointed on an initial pay of Rs. 10 or Rs. 11 per month and there were circle *pandits* appointed on Rs. 9 a month?

(*c*) Is it a fact that teachers in the Lower Subordinate Service of the Education Department are being appointed on an initial pay of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 a month?

(*d*) Is it a fact that clerks, with inferior qualifications in other departments, *e.g.*, in the Collectorates, Civil Courts, Police offices, etc., are being appointed on an initial pay of Rs 30 a month?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell :—

"(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) No such appointment at these rates of pay has been made at the institutions named or others of similar status within the last ten years.

(*c*) Teachers appointed to the lowest grade of the Lower Subordinate Educational Service are appointed on an initial pay of Rs. 15—1—20. Undergraduates are, however, given Rs 25—1—30 a month and graduates Rs 35—2—45 as initial pay.

(*d*) It is a fact that clerks in certain Government offices are being appointed on an initial pay of Rs 30 per mensem; but Government are not prepared to express an opinion as to whether men appointed to such posts are superior or inferior to any other men appointed to any other class of appointments."

By the Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar :—

Pay and prospects of teachers in Government service.

* 16. (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to paragraph 181 of the Report of the Bengal District Administration Committee for the year 1913-14, and to the Report of Mr. Gunn, Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Division, as contained in the Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for the year 1914-15 calling attention to the pay of teachers in Government service and the prospects of their promotion?

(*b*) If so, what steps have the Government under consideration to remedy the condition of the Lower Education Service?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell :—

"(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The question of improving the position of teachers in Government and aided high and middle schools is engaging the attention of the Local Government in consultation with the Government of India. The following allowances were sanctioned with effect from the 1st January, 1915, at a total cost of Rs. 33,120 per annum :—

(*i*) A local allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem each to the Head Masters and Head Mistresses of Government high English schools (including the Anglo-Persian Departments of Government Madrassahs) who belong to the Subordinate Educational Service.

(*ii*) A local allowance of Rs. 20 per mensem each to the Assistant Head Masters and Assistant Head Mistresses of Government high English schools (including the Anglo-Persian Departments of Government Madrassahs) who belong to the Subordinate Educational Service.

(*iii*) A local allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem each to the Head Masters and Head Mistresses of Government middle English schools.

(*iv*) A local allowance of Rs. 20 per mensem to the Head Masters and Head Mistresses of Government middle vernacular schools.

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Pay of teachers in secondary English schools.

* 17. (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the remarks of the Conference of Directors of Public Instruction held at Allahabad in 1912, and also to the Government of India's scheme, of January, 1913, in regard to the secondary English schools, providing a scale of pay from Rs. 40 to Rs. 400 for the teachers in the Education Department?

(*b*) If so, what steps have the Government taken or are they taking to give effect to this scheme?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

"(*a*) The Hon'ble Member probably refers to a conference held at Allahabad in 1911, but this question does not appear to have been raised at that conference. There was no such conference at Allahabad in 1912. The Government of India's Resolution of the 21st February, 1913, to which, presumably, the Hon'ble Member also refers, has received the full attention of this Government.

(*b*) The proposals of this Government with regard to the improvement of the pay of teachers in secondary English schools are now before the Government of India."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Private tuition by teachers in Government service.

* 18. Is it a fact that subordinate teachers in Government service as well as in aided schools in Eastern Bengal are prohibited from supplementing their pay by private tuition for more than one hour a day?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

"The instructions issued by the Director of Public Instruction regulating private tuition by teachers who are in Government service contain a provision that they will ordinarily not be permitted to undertake private tuition for more than one hour a day These instructions apply both to Eastern and Western Bengal. There are no rules relating to aided schools."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

The case of Nagendra Kumar Guha Ray.

* 19. (*a*) Is it a fact that one Nagendra Kumar Guha Ray, an assistant teacher in the Raj Kumar Jubilee School at Noakhali, has been interned or arrested for internment?

(*b*) Is it a fact that he had received a certificate of good character from the Commissioner of the Division three weeks before his arrest and a similar certificate from the Magistrate of the district two months earlier?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) The answers are in the affirmative."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Death of a prisoner in Mymensingh jail.

* 20. (a) Is it a fact that one Sanjib Chandra Ray was imprisoned in the Mymensingh Jail?

(*b*) Is it true that while so confined the said Sanjib Chandra Ray was stricken with typhoid fever accompanied with bronchitis and delirium?

(*c*) Is it a fact that his father on receiving information of his son's illness applied both to the Magistrate of the district as well as to the Government to remove him to his house or to the Government hospital for proper medical treatment, promising to return him to the jail after his recovery?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the said Sanjib Chandra Ray was not restored to his father and that he subsequently died in the Mymensingh Jail?

(*e*) Is it a fact that his father was not allowed to remain by his side on his death-bed and that his dead body was not restored to his father for the purpose of cremation?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to make a full statement with regard to the above allegations, and, if the facts are as alleged, say under whose orders, and under what rules, the case was dealt with?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR:—

"(*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*e*) & (*f*) The facts of this case are as follows:—Sanjib Chandra Ray was convicted on the 8th July, 1916, of an offence under the Arms Act at Kishoreganj and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment. He was received in the Mymensingh Jail on the 12th July. He had slight fever on the 8th August and was admitted into hospital on the following day. There was no reason to anticipate any serious consequences until the evening of the 20th August, when a sudden rise in temperature occurred and the man's breathing became laboured and frequent. The Civil Surgeon, who is also Superintendent of the Jail, examined him on the morning of the 21st and found that he had diffused bronchitis. Every care and attention were given in the case. The patient was fed on special nourishing food to keep up his vitality and all possible medical help was administered. He appeared to be progressing favourably, but succumbed suddenly on the 27th August.

The father of Sanjib Chandra Ray first applied for an interview with him on the 13th August after Sanjib Chandra Ray's admission into hospital. The Additional Magistrate gave permission for an interview to take place on the 14th August. The father did not appear on that day, but on the 16th August he filed another petition praying for an interview. This petition was also granted and the interview took place. On the 18th August another petition was filed by the father, in which he asked that in view of his son's illness he should be permitted to see him twice daily and to stay with him for at least two hours at each interview. This application was refused by the Additional Magistrate, as under rules 670 and 1198 of the Jail Code, interviews of this nature are permissible only in the case of prisoners who are dangerously ill or moribund, and on the 18th August there was no reason to anticipate that Sanjib Chandra Ray's illness would prove fatal. No further request for an interview was made by Sanjib Chandra Ray's father, but a few days later he applied to the Magistrate for permission to take his son out of the jail to a local hospital or nursing home. This petition was rejected, as there is no provision in the Jail Code authorising the removal of a prisoner from jail under these circumstances. Moreover, as Sanjib's illness was due to acute inflammation of the lungs, absolute rest was necessary, and removal from the jail would probably have been followed immediately by fatal results. On the 23rd August Sanjib's father telegraphed to Government, asking for the removal of his son to the General Hospital or to his brother's house at Mymensingh. This telegram was sent to the District Magistrate for disposal, and the petitioner was instructed by telegram to apply to the Magistrate. On the 25th August he sent another telegram to Government, stating that the Magistrate had refused his application on the ground that he was unable to sanction release under the Jail Code. The Magistrate was then asked to report the facts of the case by telegram, and he wired on the 27th August to say that the prisoner had died of pneumonia that morning.

As regards the cremation of the body, the Jail Superintendent reported to the Additional Magistrate, on the 27th August, that he apprehended a demonstration if the body were made over to the relatives. The Additional Magistrate, following the instructions of Government for dealing with such cases, issued orders that the cremation should take place within the jail and that the relatives should be allowed to attend. The relatives were duly informed of this order, but did not attend the cremation, although it was postponed to the evening in order to give them full opportunities of doing so.

A full enquiry was made by the Divisional Commissioner, and Government are satisfied that the action taken by the Jail authorities and the Additional Magistrate was in compliance with the provisions of the Jail Code and the orders of Government dealing with cases of this kind."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :-

Proceedings under the Defence of India Act.

* 21. (*a*) Upon whose initiative are proceedings under the Defence of India Act usually taken?

(*b*) Is it a fact that these proceedings are usually based upon informations supplied by spies and by the officers of the Criminal Investigation Department?

(*c*) Are written copies of charges supplied to the arrested persons and explanations in writing taken from them before an order of internment is passed against them?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) Usually on the initiative of superior officers of the Police, subject to certain administrative guidance.

(*b*) It is not a fact that such proceedings are usually based on information supplied by spies and C.I.D. officers. On the contrary, there is a large quantity of material, both documentary and oral, on which such action is based.

(*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer already laid on the table to Question No. VII (unstarred) of the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta."

By the Hon'ble BABU AMBIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR :—

Faridpur and the river Padma.

* 22. (*a*) Are the Government aware that the town of Faridpur is seriously threatened by the river Padma and that the railway line below Faridpur station has been breached causing great hardships and inconvenience to the public?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of causing a diversion line from somewhere above Shivarampur before the next rainy season?

(*c*) Are there any grounds for the belief that the present temporary station at Govindpur is likely to be washed away before the next rainy season?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"(*a*) The Eastern Bengal Railway line has been breached about a mile from Faridpur railway station and a temporary station has been opened at a distance of about 1¼ miles from the nearest part of the town.

(*b*) The question of building a diversion line is being considered by the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration. A final decision has not yet been arrived at

(*c*) The river has stopped cutting for the present and further damage is not anticipated before next rains It is not possible to forecast now what further damage may occur during next rainy season."

By the Hon'ble MR. A. RASUL :-

Election to the Bengal Legislative Council by the special Muhammadan electorate of the Presidency Division

* 23. (*a*) Is it a fact that at the last election of a member by the Special Muhammadan electorate of the Presidency Division the voting papers of electors Nos. 339 and 356 did not reach the office of the Returning Officer and were not, therefore, counted by him at the time prescribed for the counting of votes?

(*b*) If this is correct, what steps have been taken to ascertain whether these two electors actually recorded their votes?

(*c*) If they did record their votes, what became of their voting papers?

(*d*) If the votes were actually recorded and the voting papers have been destroyed or misplaced, are the Government considering the desirability of setting aside the election?

(*e*) If the two voting papers have been lost, what steps have been taken by the Government against the Attesting Officers at whose offices the votes were recorded, with a view to prevent the destruction and loss of voting papers in future?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Registrar of Dumuria did not attend office on the 5th June, 1916, the last date for the recording of votes?

(*g*) Is it a fact that Abdul Bari Sardar (elector No. 904) made an affidavit before the Sadar Subdivisional Officer of Khulna, to the effect that on the 5th

June, 1916, he called at the Dumuria Sub-Registrar's office to record his votes, but could not do so on account of the absence of the Sub-Registrar, who did not come to the office until the 6th June, 1916?

(*h*) Is it a fact that the vote of Abdul Bari Sardar could not be recorded in time for the want of an Attesting Officer? If so, are the Government considering the desirability of recording the vote now?

(*i*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Registrar of Khulna refused to record the vote of Abdul Bari Sardar unless he was identified by two senior pleaders or a landlord?

(*j*) Is it a fact that the names of Abdur Rahim Molla and Muhammad Raziuddin Ali were printed twice in the same list of electors, that two voting papers were issued to each of them, and that two votes were recorded by each of them?

(*k*) If this is correct, are the Government considering the desirability of cancelling one of the votes at least of each of these electors and ordering a recount of the votes obtained by the candidates?

(*l*) Is it a fact that the Joint Sub-Registrar of Khulna refused to accept the identification of certain *Mukhtars*, and that one of the said *Mukhtars* felt so aggrieved at this that he submitted a petition to the District Magistrate of Khulna?

(*m*) Is it a fact that a pleader's clerk and two *Mukhtars*, one after the other, presented themselves before the Joint Sub Registrar of Khulna to identify Abdur Rahim Molla and Bishu Molla (electors Nos. 950 and 1019), but that he refused to accept their identification and consequently the votes of these two electors could not be recorded at Khulna?

(*n*) Is it a fact that subsequently one of these electors, named Abdur Rahim Molla, was brought to Calcutta by one of the candidates, and as he had received two voting papers, he recorded two votes in favour of the same candidate?

(*o*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Registrars of Sealdah and Alipore, who were Attesting Officers, had votes recorded in the presence of identifiers and others, and did not supply envelopes to the electors for the purpose of enclosing their voting papers, as is prescribed by the rules?

(*p*) Is it a fact that when it was known that votes were being recorded in this manner a protest was made to the Sub-Registrar of Sealdah and apprehension was expressed that unless the votes were recorded in a screened place, as required by the rules, and voting papers were enclosed in envelopes by electors themselves, they might be tampered with or misplaced, but that no notice was taken of the protest?

(*q*) Are the Government considering the desirability of cancelling the votes recorded at Sealdah and Alipore? Is it not a fact that it is laid down in the instructions relating to elections that "Neglect on the part of the elector to comply with any of these instructions shall render the vote invalid"? If so, are the Government considering the desirability of declaring the election null and void?

(*r*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Registrars of Sealdah, Alipore, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Kandi canvassed for one of the candidates and dissuaded some of the electors from recording their votes in favour of the other candidates?

(*s*) Will the Government be pleased to state how the election will be affected if the irregularities referred to in the above question are found to be true?

(t) Are the Government taking any steps to prevent the recurrence of such irregularities and corrupt practices as are set forth in the above questions?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr :—

"These questions deal with the validity of an election held under the authority of the Regulations for the nomination and election of Additional Members of the Legislative Council of the Governor of Fort William in Bengal.

The validity of the election was brought in question at the time and the Governor in Council dealt with the matter in accordance with the procedure laid down in Regulation XVI of the said Regulations.

The Government are not prepared to make any statement in Council on the subject."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Periodical floods in the Burdwan Division.

* 24. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what measures, if any, have been suggested by the Superintending Engineer of the Burdwan Circle in order to prevent the periodical floods which occur in the several districts of the Burdwan Division?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of damage done to property by the recent floods in the several districts of the Burdwan Division in relation to—

(*i*) standing crops,
(*ii*) dwelling-houses, and
(*iii*) cattle?

(*c*) Has there been any loss of human life owing to the recent floods?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state the measures adopted for the relief of the flood-stricken people?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"(*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given by me to starred Question No. 5 at the Council Meeting of the 12th January, 1916. The measures suggested by the Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle, may briefly be stated as follows :—

(*i*) The excavation of an escape channel from the 38th mile of the Chetua Circuit embankment to the 5th mile of the Rupnarain right embankment.
(*ii*) The improvement and extension of the Hoorhoora Khal.
(*iii*) The retirement of the Baksi Khal embankment at the Rupnarain end and the widening of the Khal.
(*iv*) The construction of a short channel at Kharia on the Gaighatta Khal to join with the Ghispati Khal.
(*v*) The construction of reservoirs in the catchment of Barakar river to hold up a portion of the Damodar flood.
(*vi*) The declaration of certain areas under section 6 of the Embankment Act

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the information contained in the Press *communiqué* of October 19, 1916, a copy of which is laid on the table."

Copy of Press Communique referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN *to question No. 21 (starred) asked by the Hon'ble* RAI MOHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

AGRICULTURE.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

GOVERNMENT have received reports from the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, which contain the following particulars regarding the

effects of the floods which occurred at the end of September and the beginning of October in the Burdwan Division :—

(*i*) DAMODAR FLOOD.—The total area affected is 127 square miles, but only 23 square miles, comprising 20 villages, have been seriously affected. There was no loss of human life, and the loss of cattle was not considerable. About 3,000 houses collapsed. The damage to the rice crop in the affected area is estimated at about four annas. The crops were not submerged for more than twenty-four hours. No relief measures have been found necessary in this area.

(*ii*) AJAY FLOOD IN BURDWAN DISTRICT.—The total area affected is 157 square miles, comprising 169 villages, in 87 of which the damage is reported as being serious. Two people (a leper and an old woman) and 111 head of cattle were drowned, and 18,114 houses belonging to 9,671 house-holders were destroyed. The damage to the rice crop in the affected area is estimated at eight annas. In many places the crops were submerged for four or five days continuously with the result that they were destroyed.

(*iii*) AJAY FLOOD IN BIRBHUM DISTRICT.—The total area affected is 68 square miles, comprising 113 villages, in 20 of which the houses have been almost completely destroyed. There was no loss of human life, but about 300 head of cattle, in addition to large numbers of sheep and goats, are reported to have been drowned. The number of houses destroyed is estimated at 15,000.

In the greater part of the flooded area in Birbhum district the water subsided after two or three days, but in a small area the crops were submerged for four or five days and were destroyed. Deposits of sand left by the flood have also done considerable damage in Birbhum district.

(*iv*) SELYE FLOOD IN GHATAL SUBDIVISION OF MIDNAPORE DISTRICT.—The total area affected is between 20 and 30 square miles, and the winter rice crop is expected to have been totally destroyed in an area of about 10 square miles. There was no loss of human life or of cattle, and very few houses were destroyed, as the country is very liable to floods and the houses are built on high ground. On account of high tides, and the flood and the Damodar, the water did not flow off for seven days. It is expected, however, that where the winter rice has been destroyed it will be possible to grow *boro* rice, and as last year's crops were good, no relief has been found necessary at present.

2. The flood in the Ajay reached its highest level on 23rd September in the day time, and the people had sufficient warning to enable them to take refuge on the roofs of their houses ; otherwise the loss of life would have been serious. While the flood remained high, the people in the area affected by the Ajay suffered very severely from exposure to the weather and want of food, and the absence of boats made it very difficult to convey relief.

3. All possible measures for relieving the distress were taken by the Collectors of Birbhum and Burdwan, who received full assistance from other officials and from private persons, and no time was lost in organizing relief. The Collector of Midnapore visited and inspected the affected area in his district. Allotments of Rs. 1,00,000 for loans and of Rs. 20,000 for gratuitous relief have been made by Government in Burdwan district, and of Rs. 30,000 for loans and Rs. 10,000 for gratuitous relief in Birbhum district. These sums have been supplemented by private subscriptions, and grants of Rs 8,000 from Babu Joy Govind Law's Fund and of Rs. 2,000 from Babu Ram Lal Mukherji's Fund, which are held at the disposal of Government for giving relief on such occasions as this, have been placed at the disposal of the Commissioner.

DARJEELING. L. BIRLEY,

The 19th October, 1916. *Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Cattle-poisoning in Bengal.

* 25. (*a*) Are the Government aware of the large number of cases of cattle-poisoning occurring in Bengal?

(*b*) Are the Government taking any action in the matter?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) The number of such cases reported in Bengal during the years 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915 was 302 337, 259 and 275, respectively, and the number of persons convicted during the same period was 73, 109, 81 and 108, respectively. The figures for the current year are not at present available, but Government are not aware of any abnormal increase in this form of crime.

(*b*) Government do not propose to take any special action in the matter."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Proposed revival of Middle School Final Examination.

* 26. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any decision as regards reviving the public examination at the end of the Middle School Course?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

" The matter was discussed at a conference of educational officers held in November 1915, and is now under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Syllabus of Primary and Middle Courses in Schools.

* 27. (*a*) Have the Government under consideration any scheme for revising the syllabus of the following courses :—

(*i*) Lower Primary,
(*ii*) Upper Primary,
(*iii*) Middle Vernacular, and
(*iv*) Middle English?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate taking up this matter at an early date?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

" (*a*) & (*b*) The matter is at present under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Constitution of Union Committees.

* 28. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement regarding the constitution of all Union Committees established up to date, showing the number of members elected and appointed in each case?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" A statement is placed on the table showing the constitution of all Union Committees established up to 29th November, 1916, and the number of members elected and appointed in each case."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD ***in his Answer to Question No. 28 (Starred) asked by the Hon'ble*** RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR ***at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916, showing the constitution of all Union Committees established up to 29th November, 1916, and the number of members elected and appointed in each case.***

Name of District.	Name of Union.	Number of Members—		
		Elected.	Appointed.	Total.
Burdwan ...	Memari	...	6	6
	Ahmadpur	...	6	6
	Mankar	...	9	9
	Baidyapur	...	9	9
	Bagnapara	...	9	9
	Srikhanda	..	9	9
	Sribati	...	9	9
Birbhum ...	Bolpur	...	9	9
	Bistupur	.	9	9
	Dubrajpur	...	9	9
	Nalhati	...	9	9
	Rampurhat	6	3	9
	Raipur	6	3	9
	Paikar	...	9	9
Bankura ...	Kotalpur	...	7	7
	Palasdanga	...	7	7
	Pakhanna	...	7	7
Midnapore	Contai	...	9	9
	Jura	...	9	9
	Panskura	...	9	9
	Pingla	...	9	9
	Danton	...	9	9
Hooghly ...	Pandua	...	9	9
	Balagar	...	9	9
	Bomchee	...	9	9
	Dhamakhali	...	9	9
	Dhobapara	...	9	9
	Guptipara	...	9	9
	Chandtola	...	7	7
	Janai	...	7	7
	Haripal	...	9	9
	Sheakhala	...	9	9
	Bali	...	7	7
Howrah ...	Amta	6	3	9
	Bagnan	6	3	9
	Domjur	6	3	9
	Jagatballabpur ...	6	3	9
	Uluberia	6	3	9
24-Parganas	Itinda	...	9	9
	Jadurhati	...	9	9
	Rahuta	...	7	7
	Madrail-Narainpur ...	...	7	7
	Rajibpur	...	5	5
	Malikberia	..	5	5
	Diamond-Harbour ...	...	9	9
	Hajipore	...	9	9
	Magrahat	...	9	9
	Mollarchak	...	9	9
	Boral	...	9	9
Nadia ...	Muragacha	...	9	9
	Kissenganj	...	7	7
	Chandanga	...	7	7
	Poradah	...	7	7

Name of District.	Name of Union.	Number of Members— Elected.	Appointed.	Total.
Murshidabad.	Panchtupi	...	9	9
	Mirzapur	...	9	9
	Patkabari	...	5	5
	Aurangabad	...	9	9
	Choa	...	8	8
Jessore ...	Bongaon	...	7	7
	Jhenidah	...	9	9
	Harinakundu ...	...	9	9
	Kalia	...	9	9
	Magura	...	9	9
	Itna	...	9	9
	Narail	...	9	9
Khulna ...	Senhati	...	9	9
	Daulatpur	...	9	9
	Dumuria	...	9	9
	Bagerhat	...	9	9
	Mulghar	...	9	9
	Nawapara	...	9	9
	Kalaroa	...	9	9
	Magura	...	9	9
	Goalpara	...	9	9
	Phultala	...	9	9
Faridpur ...	Rajbari	4	3	7
	Pangsa	4	3	7
	Baliakandi	4	3	7
	Sibchar	4	3	7
	Paleng	4	3	7
	Bhanga	4	3	7
	Bhusna (Boalmari) ...	3	2	5
	Meghua	3	2	5
	Jamalpur	3	2	5
	Rajoir	4	3	7
	Dakhinbari	3	2	5
Dacca ...	Subhadya	6	3	9
	Kalatia	6	3	9
	Teghuria	6	3	9
	Nawabganj	6	3	9
	Sripur	6	3	9
	Jinardi	6	3	9
	Kaliganj	6	3	9
	Dhamrai	6	3	9
	Tetuljhora	6	3	9
	Panchdona	6	3	9
	Mahespur	6	3	9
	Lebutala	6	3	9
	Srinagar	6	3	9
	Fatulla	6	3	9
	Aminpur	6	3	9
	Shekharnagar	6	3	9
	Rajnagar Saidpur ...	6	3	9
	Rasunia	6	3	9
	Hasara	6	3	9
	Iehhapura	6	3	9
	Birtara	6	3	9
	Syamsidhi	6	3	9
	Sholaghar	6	3	9
	Bhagyakul	6	3	9
	Haldia	6	3	9
	Betka	6	3	9
	Abdullapur	6	3	9
	Dhipur	6	3	9

Name of District.	Name of Union.	Number of Members— Elected.	Appointed.	Total.
Dacca—*concld.*	Autshahi	6	3	9
	Kalma	6	3	9
	Mirkadim	6	3	9
	Bajrajogini	6	3	9
	Char Kewar	6	3	9
	Hasail	6	3	9
	Baherak	6	3	9
	Char Silai	6	3	9
	Baira	6	3	9
	Hatipara	6	3	9
	Balla	6	3	9
	Garpara	6	3	9
	Saturia	6	3	9
	Munshiganj	6	3	9
	Manikganj	6	3	9
	Mirpur	6	3	9
Tippera ...	Laksam	...	5	5
	Sarail	...	5	5
	Nabinagar	...	5	5
	Akhaura	...	5	5
	Matlab	...	5	5
	Hajiganj	...	9	9
	Gandharbapur ..	...	8	8
Noakhali ...	Lakhipur	.	6	6
	Hatia	...	6	6
	Sandip	...	6	6
	Feni	...	6	6
Bogra ...	Santahar	...	7	7
	Hilli	...	7	7
	Jaipurhat	..	7	7
	Sonatala	...	7	7
	Chandanbari	...	7	7
	Dupchanchia	...	7	7
Rangpur ...	Sadyapuskarni ...	...	9	9
	Gobindaganj	...	9	9
	Mahimaganj	...	8	8
	Haripur	...	7	7
	Chilmari	...	9	9
	Gaibandha	...	7	7
	Gopalpur	..	5	5
	Badarganj	...	9	9
	Ulipur	...	9	9
	Nilphamari	...	9	9
	Bhotemari	...	5	5
	Dimla	..	9	9
	Domar	...	9	9
	Kishorganj	...	9	9
	Kurigram	..	9	9

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Representation of Union residents in Union Committees.

* 29. Are the Government considering the desirability of directing that in Union Committees constituted under section 41 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, two-thirds of the members shall be elected by the residents of the Union?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"The practice of Government, when new Unions are established, is to direct that two-thirds of the members shall be elected by the residents of the Union, unless there is reason to believe that the Union is not sufficiently

advanced for the elective system. Inquiries will be made whether the same system can be introduced in Unions in which all the members are at present appointed when their present term of office expires."

By the Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR :—

Alleged insanitary condition of Berhampore Sluice.

* 30. (*a*) Are the Government aware of the present insanitary condition of the Berhampore Sluice on the Bhagirathi Embankment which is in close proximity to the Sadar Hospital, Berhampore, in the district of Murshidabad?

(*b*) Are the Government in possession of any report made by the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, or the Executive Engineer, Nadia Rivers Division, on the subject?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report and state what action has been taken in this connection?

(*d*) If no report has been received, are the Government considering the desirability of directing the District Magistrate to hold an inquiry into the matter in consultation with the Engineer concerned?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Executive Engineer has proposed the following improvements :—

(1) opening out two man-holes in the arch in the compound of the Mission House,

(2) straightening the channel from the sluice to the Berhampore road culvert and making the bottom and sides *pucca*.

The Superintending Engineer in his letter No. 3700 G., dated 28th June, 1916, has reported as follows :—

'The length of the Berhampore channel from the river to the bhil is 2 200 feet. The first 400 feet is the entrance channel, and then there is the sluice, the barrel of which is 225 feet long below the Strand Road and the compound of the Mission Boarding. The barrel in the countryside is open and in the riverside is provided with a screw-gear shutter. After this barrel there is an open channel 125 feet long and then follows a municipal road culvert with a long underground barrel having *pucca* houses on each side of the road. After this culvert there is about 900 feet of open channel with irregular bed and side slopes, running in a zigzag way, having *pucca* and *kutcha* houses on the banks. The channel receives the washings from various municipal drains which stagnate throughout the whole year, till the channel receives its flushing by the admission of river water during the silting operation of the bhil. The barrel being underground, long and dark, it is very difficult to clear the silt. It is for this reason, as well as for ready examination of the barrel, that some improvement is considered to be necessary.'

(*d*) The proposal is receiving the consideration of Government."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

(*The answers to which were laid on the table.*)

By the Hon'ble MR. PROVASH CHANDER MITTER :—

Expenditure on excavation and repair of tanks and repairs to hospitals by District Boards.

I. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :—

(*i*) the total income of the District Boards in Bengal for the years 1913-14, 1914-15 and 1915-16;

(*ii*) the amount spent by them during the said three years—

(*a*) in the excavation of new tanks,

(*b*) in the repair of old tanks, and

(*c*) under the head of "Hospitals and Dispensaries";

(*iii*) what percentage of the total income has been spent during these three years on the head mentioned in clause (*ii*); and

(*iv*) the closing balances of the District Boards for the said three years?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Resolutions of this Government reviewing the Reports on the working of the District Boards in Bengal for figures showing their income and closing balances for the years 1913-14 and 1914-15. A statement giving the other information asked for is laid on the table."

Statement referred to by the HON'BLE MR. DONALD *in his answer to Question No. 1 (Unstarred) by the* HON'BLE MR. PROVASH CHANDER MITTER *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

DISTRICT BOARDS	*Amount spent on the excavation of new tanks during			Amount spent on the repairs of old tanks during			Amount spent on hospitals and dispensaries during		
	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
BURDWAN DIVISION.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Burdwan	...	14,380	18,727	...	...	35	29,763	35,829	46,406
Birbhum	...	78	340	6,703	413	...	5,880	8,164	12,600
Bankura	...	...	1,02,052	300	2,249	530	6,473	8,275	9,911
Midnapore	6,588	4,253	241	21,251	2,222	879	7,086	18,813	22,931
Hooghly	...	...	.	4,665	7,603	8,918	13,370	20,245	21,687
Howrah	2,055	13,423	4,710	388	360	334	8,961	10,748	16,214
Total ...	8,643	32,134	1,29,070	33,307	12,838	10,666	71,536	1,02,074	1,29,749
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.									
24-Parganas ...	4,969	21,814	31,281	1,893	1,747	5,230	16,381	17,738	21,322
Nadia	...	...	...	...	29	200	7,949	12,173	19,015	
Murshidabad ...	...	...	...	668	7,933	4,310	7,220	11,570	14,023
Jessore	11,317	17,721	21,463	170	431	772	18,131	15,899	18,567
Khulna	22,449	21,991	24,781	838	1,121	1,170	22,609	20,243	23,935
Total ..	38,735	61,526	77,525	3,569	11,261	11,712	72,683	77,823	96,862
DACCA DIVISION									
Dacca	9,544	15,659	16,098	449	413	678	21,726	50,110	17,986
Mymensingh ...	886	4,941	7,973	313	1,870	1,238	31,054	25,231	65,963
Faridpur	27,538	33,352	30,289	4,269	4,275	4,456	12,703	12,539	16,270
Bakarganj	13,926	11,232	8,608	3,292	6,155	3,33	45,763	56,273	43,808
Total ...	51,894	65,184	62,968	8,323	13,013	6,705	1,11,*76	1,44,183	1,74,029
CHITTAGONG DIVISION									
Chittagong	...	...	...	14,645	42,433	63,145	16,840	25,691	29,554
Tippera	23,107	41,830	79,972	242	409	760	16,562	22,831	20,153
Chakhai	2,300	46,560	32,244	1,278	1,802	12,073	12,858	14,448	14,990
Total ...	25,407	88,390	1,12,216	16,165	44,644	75,978	46,260	62,976	64,697
RAJSHAHI DIVISION									
Jalpaiguri	7,654	20,519	21,421	116	184	166	10,591	13,245	13,936
Dinajpur	1,097	1,093	5,069	...	...	...	12,755	16,359	12,891
Darjeeling	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,043	10,314	10,985
Rangpur	...	...	...	5,022	3,331	2,146	21,899	43,010	35,279
Bogra	...	...	...	2,686	9,288	4,649	6,494	9,534	12,678
Pabna	797	1,241	1,006	142	106	20	5,366	5,690	10,674
Malda	1,215	2,730	2,563	153	79	...	9,189	12,750	15,384
Total ...	10,763	25,583	30,059	8,119	12,988	6,981	73,332	1,10,642	1,10,837
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,35,442	2,75,817	4,11,838	69,483	94,747	1,12,042	3,75,087	4,97,698	5,76,174

* Excluding wells.

DISTRICT BOARDS.	Percentage of income spent on the excavation of new tanks.			Percentage of income spent on the repairs of old tanks.			Percentage of income spent on hospitals and dispensaries.			Total income in 1915-16.	Closing balance in 1915-16.
	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1913-14	1914-15.	1915-16.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915 16.		
BURDWAN DIVISION.										Rs.	Rs.
Burdwan	...	2 24	2·95	...	...	·005	5·45	5·59	7·32	6,34,052	3,01,10
Bolsbum	...	·03	·13	2·71	·18	...	2·38	3·54	4·93	2,55,570	74,97
Bankura	...	...	22·39	17	1·3	11	3·8	4·8	2 18	4,55,667	15,28
Midnapore	1·09	·74	·04	3·53	·39	16	1·17	3·29	4·18	5,48,734	3,22,50
Hooghly	...	...	...	1·4	2·52	2·96	4	6·71	7·13	3,01,512	89,59
Howrah	·85	6·6	3·75	·12	·18	·16	3·7	5 26	7·88	2 05,697	25,80
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,01,232	8,29,25
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.											
24 Pargunas... ...	·94	4·1	4·72	·36	·29	·79	3 1	2·94	3 22	6,62,688	6,03,00
Nadia	...	...	...	...	·01	·06	2·69	4·14	5·92	3,21,181	97,05
Murshidabad ...	...	...	...	·25	3·26	1·69	2·75	4·84	5·46	2,55,735	1,08,78
Jessore	3·11	5 53	7·11	05	·13	·25	5 52	4·96	6·11	3,02,059	59,24
Khulna	6·8	6·78	8·09	·25	·35	·38	6·88	6·24	7 82	3 06,080	23,53.
Total ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,48,743	8,91,62
DACCA DIVISION											
Dacca	2 11	4·18	3·82	·1	·11	16	4·81	13·41	11 38	4,21,676	1 29,44
Mymensingh ...	·11	59	·96	·04	·23	·15	3 78	3·01	7·96	8,28,603	3,96,66
Faridpur	9·05	12 71	9·38	1·1	1·63	1·38	4·11	4 78	5 04	3,22 632	43,10
Bakarganj	2 16	1·75	1·45	·51	1 01	·05	7·11	8 77	7 38	5,93 498	33,82
Total ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	21,66,409	6,03,03
CHITTAGONG DIVISION											
Chittagong	...	...	...	3·5	10·98	17·22	4 03	6 11	8 06	3,66,667	1,28,79
Tippera	5·78	10·7	17·39	06	01	·17	4·14	5·84	4·38	4 59,803	1,02,96
Noakhali	·68	13·89	10·86	·38	·54	4·03	3·81	1·31	5 02	2,96,866	1,04,47
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,23,336	3,36,23
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.											
Rajshahi	2 36	6 1	6·83	·04	06	·05	3 27	1 13	4·44	3 13,729	82,70
Dinajpur	·33	34	1 47	...	...	...	3 81	5 17	3 71	3,14,701	82,15
Jalpaiguri	...	...	...	...	..	..	2·37	3·6	3	3 35 639	1,27,23
Rangpur	...	...	...	·93	68	41	4·08	8·74	6·71	5,25 681	1,82 31
Bogra	...	...	...	1·27	4 67	2·31	3·06	1·68	6·3	2 01,324	36,70
Pabna	·29	19	·4	·05	·04	·008	2	2·21	4·22	2,50,574	1,25,32
Malda	·56	1·1	1 24	·07	·04	...	4 5	6·53	7 47	2,05,840	52,93
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	21,77,531	6,89,38
GRAND TOTAL ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97,17,251	33,19,53

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Dacoity in village Lalitashar, Tippera.

11. (*a*) Are the Government aware that there was a serious dacoity committed in village Lalitashar, within police-station Muradnagar, in the district of Tippera, in September last?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the villagers, although unarmed, made an effort to capture the dacoits, who were armed with revolvers, and chased them for a long distance?

(*c*) Is it a fact that in the fight which ensued, no less than five villagers were shot dead, and many more wounded and maimed for life?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the villagers succeeded in securing one of the dacoits who met his death at their hands?

(*e*) Is it also a fact that the five villagers who have laid down their lives, and the others who have been disabled for life, were the bread-winners of their respective families?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to state what reward, gratuity or allowance, if any, has been granted by the Government in recognition of the services of these villagers and for making provision for their children and relatives?

(*g*) If nothing has been done in the matter, will the Government be pleased to say whether they are considering the desirability of making such grants as may appear to them to be suitable.

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) The answers are in the affirmative.

(*c*) Five villagers were shot dead and five were wounded, two of them seriously. The wounded men were removed to hospital and they have since recovered and returned to their homes.

(*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*e*) Four of the five villagers who were killed and all the men who were wounded were cultivators or labourers with families. The fifth person killed was a boy 13 years of age.

(*f*) & (*g*) Proposals on the subject have recently been received from the local officers and are now under consideration. In the opinion of Government the pluck and determination shown by the villagers in this case are deserving of full and liberal recognition."

The Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA asked the following SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :—

With reference to the answers given to clauses (*f*) and (*g*) of my question, will the Government be pleased to state when the proposals referred to were received from the local officers?

The Hon'ble MR. LYON said :—

"The proposals in question were first received about a month ago. They were considered insufficient. Government therefore returned the proposals to the local officers for reconsideration. They have been further revised and are now, I believe, on the point of final acceptance."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Dismissal of a Police officer.

111. (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the case of Babu Durgadas Datta who was Sub-Inspector of Police in the district of Chittagong and who was dismissed by the Superintendent of Police of that district on the 4th September, 1915, on the report of Babu Srish Chandra Sarkar, officiating Inspector of Police?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the said Babu Durgadas Datta, in his explanation questioned the report of the Inspector as maliciously false and attributed it to personal animosity and prayed for an inquiry by the Superintendent of Police or by any other responsible officer?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Police at first promised to make an inquiry, but that later on he changed his mind for reasons which have not been communicated to the Sub-Inspector, and declined to make an inquiry as to the truth of the charge made against the Sub-Inspector?

(*d*) Is it a fact that no inquiry has been made by any officer and no opportunity has been given to the Sub-Inspector to disprove the allegations made against him, and that he has been condemned merely on the verbal information said to have been given to the Inspector by some persons whose names were not disclosed by the Inspector, although that officer was taken to task for this non-disclosure by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police?

(*e*) Is it also true that the Inspector himself did not allege that he made any inquiry as to the truth of the information upon which the Sub-Inspector was dismissed?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the whole charge against the Sub-Inspector was that an entry in his diary of the 15th June, 1915, to the effect that he had made a

local inquiry into a case of drowing was false, and that in point of fact he made the inquiry at the police-station?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the Inspector himself accepted the report of the Sub-Inspector about the drowning case as correct and that the District Magistrate disposed of the case accordingly?

(*h*) Is it a fact that it is admitted by all parties concerned that it was a true case of drowning and that there was no suggestion of any corruption or bribery on the part of the Sub-Inspector?

(*i*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Inspector has got a record of twenty-four years' good and loyal service in the Police Department?

(*j*) Have the Government before them any proposal for a mitigation of the punishment accorded to the Sub-Inspector to something less than dismissal from service?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"Government have received a memorial on this subject from Babu Durgadas Datta. No appeal lies to Government against the orders passed by the Inspector-General of Police, but Government have examined the record of the case, and are satisfied that there is no reason to interfere. Government are not prepared to make a statement in this Council regarding the details of the case."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Internments under the Defence of India Act.

IV. (*a*) Have the Government considered, or are they considering, the advisability of the appointment of an Advisory Board for determining all questions of internment under the Defence of India Act, as suggested in a memorial submitted by the Indian Association?

(*b*) Are the Government providing for the education of interned students in those cases in which their guardians and parents are prepared to meet the cost of their education?

(*c*) Are the Government taking any steps for the reformation of young and impressionable *détenus* beyond mere detention?

(*d*) Do the Government take the parents and guardians of young and impressionable suspects into their confidence, and warn them as soon as the police begin to suspect that their children or wards, as the case may be, are inclined to go astray, and ask them to take particular care of such children or wards?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) The Council may rest assured that Government give full consideration to all proposals made with regard to the Defence of India Act, and will not hesitate to adopt any change in procedure which may seem to them likely to be productive of good. At the present moment there is no intention on the part of Government to act on the lines suggested by the Indian Association.

(*b*) In a few cases this has been permitted.

(*c*) & (*d*) Action is now being taken in both these directions. Reformation is the chief object of the measures which are being adopted."

The Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA asked the following SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :—

With reference to the answers given to clauses (*c*) and (*d*) of my question, will the Government be pleased to state from what date action has been taken in the direction indicated?

The Hon'ble MR. LYON said :—

"I think the Hon'ble Member should give notice of that question."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Internments under the Defence of India Act.

V. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :—

(*a*) the number of persons who have been dealt with under the Defence of India Act in Bengal since the passing of the Act up to December, 1915, and the number of persons so dealt with since December, 1915, and the number of persons so dealt with since

(*b*) the number of persons proceeded against for actually acting in a manner prejudicial to the public safety;

(*c*) the number of persons proceeded against for being about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety;

(*d*) the number of persons proceeded against for actually acting in a manner prejudicial to the defence of British India;

(*e*) the number of persons proceeded against for being about to act in a manner prejudicial to the defence of British India;

(*f*) the number of persons interned, district by district?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) The figures are contained in a statement (A) which is laid on the table.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) it is considered undesirable in the public interest to give any reply to these questions.

(*f*) The figures are contained in a statement (B) which is laid on the table."

Statement (A) referred to in the answer by the HON'BLE MR. KERR *to question No. V (unstarred) asked by the* HON'BLE BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

Number of persons *at present* in domicile against whom orders were passed between May 1915 and 31st December, 1915			36
	Away from home	23	
	With relatives	13	
Number of persons *at present* in domicile against whom orders were passed between January 1916 and 1st December, 1916			443
	Away from home	336	
	With relatives	107	
Total number of persons *at present* in domicile ...			479

STATEMENT (B) REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER BY THE HON'BLE MR. KERR TO QUESTION NO. V (UNSTARRED) ASKED BY THE HON'BLE BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 13TH DECEMBER, 1916.

Statement showing home districts of detenus, of those against whom orders were passed up to the 1st December, 1916.

Calcutta	59
24-Parganas	29
Khulna	11
Jessore	16
Nadia	16
Murshidabad	3
Howrah	34
Hooghly	12
Birbhum	1
Bankura	3
Midnapore	3
Burdwan	6
Dacca	71
Faridpur	58
Bakarganj	14
Mymensingh	39
Tippera	54
Noakhali	7
Chittagong	6
Chittagong Hill Tracts	—
Rajshahi	2
Rangpur	—
Bogra	—
Malda	4
Pabna	21
Darjeeling	—
Dinajpur	—
Jalpaiguri	—
Punjab	1
Assam	3
Bikanir State	1
Bihar and Orissa	1
Asiatic Turk	1
Total ...	479

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Internments under the Defence of India Act.

VI. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, in the case of persons interned under the Defence of India Act, it is the invariable practice to formulate definite charges in writing against the suspects?

(*b*) Are all the grounds of suspicion mentioned categorically in the written charge?

(*c*) What is the rank of the officer who draws up the charge?

(*d*) Is there any foundation for the impression that the suspect is asked merely to give full information as to his antecedents, and all that he knows about other suspects?

(*e*) Is the suspect allowed an opportunity of disproving the allegations made against him, and of clearing his character? If so, what time, if any, is ordinarily allowed to him for this purpose?

(*f*) Is each suspect asked to make a written statement?

(*g*) If an oral statement is taken, is it reduced to writing?

(*h*) If so, by an officer of what rank is this done?

(*i*) Is the suspect required to sign the oral statement when it has been reduced to writing?

(*j*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of this being done?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to the question asked by the Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar on the 4th September, 1916, which was as follows :—

' In the case of each suspect who is interned under the Defence of India Rules he is informed generally as to the allegation made against him, and is asked to state what he has to say in answer to them.'

Charges are not reduced to writing.

(*d*) It is not the case that the suspect is merely asked to give the details mentioned in the question

(*e*) The suspect is allowed an opportunity, no time-limit is imposed.

(*f*) Each suspect is now invited to make at his option a written statement for submission to Government.

(*g*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*h*) Ordinarily by gazetted officers.

(*i*) & (*j*) In every case he is given an opportunity to sign his statement when it has been reduced to writing: but no compulsion is used. In most cases he does elect to sign. Government do not think it necessary to compel him "

The Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA asked the following SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :—

With reference to the answer given to clause (*f*) of my question, will the Government be pleased to state from what date the procedure that each suspect is invited to make a written statement, has been introduced.

The Hon'ble MR. LYON said :—

" I must ask the Hon'ble Member kindly to give notice of this question."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA —

Case of internment of Nagendra Kumar Guha Ray.

VII. (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the case of the *détenu*, Nagendra Kumar Guha Ray?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the order of internment was passed against him without an opportunity being given to him to submit an explanation?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) It is not the fact. An opportunity was given to him to submit an explanation, and he took advantage of that opportunity."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA —

Internments under the Defence of India Act.

VIII. (*a*) Are the Government aware that there is a widespread feeling throughout Bengal that people are being interned upon most insufficient materials?

(*b*) Are the Government also aware of a feeling throughout Bengal that in many cases the police first make an arrest under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and that, failing to discover any evidence, they, as a last resort, take action under the Defence of India Act?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) Government are aware that there is a feeling to this effect in Bengal among many people. Government are also aware that there is also a feeling among many other people in Bengal to the opposite effect.

(*b*) Government are not aware of the existence to any great extent of this feeling; in any case, if such a feeling exists, it is not justified in fact."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Floods in the Tippera district.

IX. (*a*) Are the Government aware that there was a disastrous flood in the district of Tippera in October, 1916, owing to breaches in the embankments of the Gumti river?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :—

(*i*) the area affected by the flood;
(*ii*) the area of agricultural land so affected;
(*iii*) the area of that portion of the affected land on which paddy crop was standing at the time of the flood and which was destroyed by the same;
(*iv*) the total value of the crop damaged;
(*v*) the total damage to houses and other property?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that there was a flood in the preceding year also due to the same cause?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement with respect to this last mentioned flood, also giving all the particulars indicated in clause (*b*) of this question?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

" (*a*) Yes.
(*b*) (*i*) One hundred square miles.
(*ii*) Eighty square miles.
(*iii*) Fifty square miles.
(*iv*) Roughly estimated at Rs. 6 lakhs.
(*v*) Not serious.
(*c*) Yes.
(*d*) The flood of 1915 was in a different area.
(*i*) Fifty square miles.
(*ii*) Nearly 50 square miles.
(*iii*) Nearly 50 square miles.
(*iv*) Roughly estimated at Rs 1½ lakhs.
(*v*) Small."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Breaches in the Gumti embankment.

X. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state on how many occasions there have been breaches in the Gumti embankments during the last ten years which have resulted in floods?

(*b*) Was there destruction of crops on each of these occasions?

(*c*) Was the damage on each of these occasions approximately of the same magnitude as that caused by the floods of 1915 and 1916?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

" (*a*) The following is a statement of the breaches in the Gumti embankments which are on record.

In 1906, a year of exceptional rainfall, there were high floods with several breaches.

In 1909 there was a bad breach which affected the railway.

In 1913 there were no breaches above the Assam-Bengal Railway bridge, but the right embankment, where it had been lowered and demolished but re-erected, was breached in four places.

In 1914 there were two breaches in the left and three in the right embankment in the Paitkara and Gangamandal estates, respectively.

In 1915 there were two breaches in the right embankment above the Assam-Bengal Railway bridge and four breaches below it.

In 1916 there were two breaches above the Assam-Bengal Railway bridge and one below it. There were also several breaches in the right bank within the Gangamandal estate in that section of the embankments which had been partly demolished and lowered in the year 1892.

(*b*) There was destruction of crops in 1913, 1915, 1916. There is nothing on record as regards destruction of crops in the other years.

(*c*) No; the floods of 1915-16 appear to have caused more damage than in any previous year."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

The Gumti embankments.

XI. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a rough estimate of the total loss to the raiyats during the last ten years by the destruction of crops in the flooded area due to breaches in the Gumti embankments?

(*b*) Is it a fact that experts have recorded an opinion that the embankments are no longer sufficient to afford protection against floods even in years of normal rains?

(*c*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the opinions that have been expressed that chances of breaches in the Gumti embankments are steadily increasing from year to year and that there is good reason to believe that the consequent flood will be an annual visitation?

(*d*) Are the Government aware that there is a feeling of insecurity and helplessness amongst the agricultural population of a large tract of country at the prospect of breaches occurring every year in the Gumti embankments?

(*e*) Have the Government instituted inquiries—

(*i*) as to the causes of the successive floods, and

(*ii*) as to the chances of floods increasing year after year?

(*f*) Are the Government aware that the town of Comilla is in danger of being flooded if any breach occurs near the town on the town side of the river?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the town of Comilla has very narrowly escaped inundation on several occasions?

(*h*) Is it a fact that in 1910 the Superintending Engineer of the Eastern Circle expressed his deliberate opinion that there was no doubt that unless steps were taken, it was only a question of years before the town would be flooded, as the Gumti was slowly but surely rising and would continue to do so?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"(*a*) No estimate has been made except for 1915 and 1916, in which years the damage is estimated at Rs. 1½ lakhs and Rs. 6 lakhs, respectively. No estimate is possible of the damage done in the lower reaches of the river by breaches of the bunds in Paitkara and Gangamandal parganas. The breaches of these bunds are frequent and are looked upon as ordinary incidents of the rainy season.

(*b*) No record can be traced of any expert opinion that the embankments no longer afford protection against floods in the years of normal rainfall.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) As is usually found in the case of an agricultural population living beside an embanked river, fed from hill torrents, there is a feeling of considerable apprehension during periods of excessive rain.

(*e*) to (*h*) Yes."

By the Hon'ble BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA :—

Gumti embankments.

XII. (*a*) How long has the Gumti embankment question been under the consideration of the Government?

(*b*) In what year, for the first time, was the gravity of the situation first brought to the notice of the Government?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any expert opinion has been recorded that it is possible to control the floods and that the evils arising from the Gumti embankment are not irremediable?

(*d*) In what year was it first decided by the Government that immediate steps should be taken to solve the Gumti embankment problem?

(*e*) How many conferences of Government experts and other Government officials have been held for the solution of the said problem?

(*f*) What various schemes have been propounded by Government experts to control the Gumti floods ever since the question has engaged the attention of the Government?

(*g*) Have any of the schemes been tried?

(*h*) If so, what are the schemes which have been tried?

(*i*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why no steps have yet been taken?

(*j*) When did the Government first have under consideration the abandonment of the Gumti embankment? Have the Government come to any final decision about it?

(*k*) When did the proposal of providing escape for discharge of surplus water come under the consideration of the Government?

(*l*) Is it a fact that this proposal has had the approval of expert opinion for some time past?

(*m*) Is it a fact that the proposal has not been carried out on account of the initial costs of the escapes and of the necessary channels?

(*n*) Is it a fact that the Agent of the Assam-Bengal Railway expressed an opinion in 1910 that the control and maintenance of the bunds were such as to invite disaster?

(*o*) Is it a fact that he urged that some definite policy should be decided upon as soon as possible?

(*p*) Is it a fact that in 1912, the Agent of the Assam-Bengal Railway reiterated his indictment against the authorities responsible for the construction and control of the bund, and complained of the complete want of any definite scheme for controlling the river Gumti and the continued absence of any decision in the matter?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN.—

"(*a*) The embankments on the Gumti were not constructed by, nor are they the property of, Government. The embankments on the upper reaches belong to His Highness the Raja of Hill Tippera, who has undertaken by a special agreement to keep them in repair to the satisfaction of Government. The embankments on the lower reaches belong to other private zamindars. Although all these embankments are private property, Government have all along endeavoured to see that they are so managed as to do as much good and as little harm as possible. The records show that Government have made these endeavours from 1845, and probably from an earlier date

(*b*) This is not apparent from the records.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) This is not apparent from the records.

(*e*) Three, within recent years, and probably many before.

(*f*) The main schemes which have been suggested are—(*1*) the construction of retired lines of embankment, (*2*) the construction of escapes, (*3*) the construction of reservoirs to hold up a portion of the Gumti flood.

(*g*), (*h*) & (*i*) Some retired lines have been constructed The other schemes involve grave difficulties—engineering, financial and administrative—and have not yet been attempted.

(*j*) Sir Henry Harrison, in his account of the action of the Government in dealing with embankments since the Permanent Settlement, stated: 'In Tippera the embankments on the Gumti were abandoned in 1845 and the result was also reported to be satisfactory.' The records show, however, that the embankments were still in existence (perhaps reconstructed) in 1881. In 1884 Colonel McNeile, then Chief Engineer, Bengal, proposed to demolish certain lengths of the embankments on the right bank of the river. This proposal was not accepted in full, but in 1899-02 the embankments on the lower reaches of the river were removed or lowered in height. The question of a further demolition

or reduction of embankments was considered in 1916, but Government decided not to take further action on these lines until escapes or reservoirs be constructed.

(*k*) In 1884.

(*l*) Opinions have been divided on this point.

(*m*) As noted above, the reasons were partly financial and partly otherwise.

(*n*) Yes.

(*o*) Yes.

(*p*) Yes. Since then Government have undertaken to see that the embankments are maintained in the state in which they existed when the railway was under construction. The Railway Company has also made an additional bridge. As a result the railway line is now practically safe."

By the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta :—

XIII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it was the case that in consequence of the flood of 1915 there was a conference held at Comilla in April 1916 to consider the Gumti embankment problem under the presidency of the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell? Gumti embankments.

(*b*) Was the conference attended by the Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, the Chief Engineer of the Assam-Bengal Railway and the District Engineer of Tippera?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the remedy or remedies decided on by the Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell in consultation with the said Engineers?

(*d*) Was any step taken to give effect to the decision then arrived at?

(*e*) What has been the result of the conference?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the schemes of escape on either bank and the storage reservoir in the hills were accepted by the Hon'ble Mr Beatson Bell? If so, have these projects been given effect to?

(*g*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why the said schemes were not carried out?

(*h*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to expert opinion that the estimated cost of the damage caused by the flood in a single year is much greater than the cost of the most expensive scheme yet suggested?

(*i*) Is it in the contemplation of the Government to take any steps or to cause any steps to be taken in accordance with expert opinion? If so, what are the steps so contemplated?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Green :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*), (*e*), (*f*), (*g*) & (*i*) A copy of the proceedings of the conference is laid on the table. The decision of Government was as follows :—

'Unless and until storage reservoirs or escapes are provided, the embankments, and in particular the right embankment to the east of the railway bridge, shall be maintained as efficiently as possible and at a height not less than that at which they stood when the railway was under construction.'

The schemes for storage reservoirs and escapes are still under consideration.

(*d*) The Collector was requested to see that the Tippera Raj maintained the embankment on the lines of the Government order.

(*h*) No expert opinion exactly to this effect has been received by Government."

Proceedings referred to in the answer by the HON'BLE MR. GREEN *to question No. XIII (unstarred) asked by the* HON'BLE BABU AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

Conference held at the Tippera District Board Office on the 7th April, 1916, at 9 a.m.

PRESENT:

THE HON'BLE MR. N. D. BEATSON BELL, C.S.I., C.I.E., Member of Council (in the Chair).

E. GEAKE, ESQ., I.C.S., Commissioner of the Chittagong Division.

J. H. LINDSAY, ESQ., I.C.S., Offg. Collector of Tippera.

C. P. WALSH, ESQ., Superintending Engineer.

The Agent, Assam-Bengal Railway.

The Chief Engineer, Assam-Bengal Railway.

BABU PEARY CHARAN GUPTA, District Engineer of Tippera.

„ PRASANNA KUMAR DAS GUPTA, Manager of the Tippera Raj Estate.

„ SITA NATH DAS, Manager, Gangamandal Estate.

„ ANUKUL CHANDRA ROY, Manager, Ward's Estates, Comilla.

„ KAILASH CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE, Chairman, Municipality.

RAI K. BANERJEE BAHADUR, Engineer, Gangamandal Estate.

BABU UPENDRA MOHAN MITRA, Legal Adviser, Gangamandal Estate.

MAULVI SYED ABDUL JABBAR, Zamindar.

BABU TARAK CHANDRA CHAUDHURY, Talukdar.

„ SATYENDRA NATH SEN BISWAS, Pleader.

The Manager of the Tippera Raj explained that the estate wished to remove altogether the embankment on the north side of the river both east and west of the railway, but to retain that on the south side. By this the town of Comilla would be saved, and the damage done to the raiyats on the north would not be excessive.

Babu Satyendra Nath Sen Biswas, speaking on behalf of the tenants of the Raj, opposed the removal of the embankment as the crops would be destroyed and the damage done would be greater than if Comilla were flooded. In this he was supported by several of the actual tenants present.

Babu Upendra Mohan Mitra, speaking for the Gangamandal estate, mentioned the large increase in its value since the creation of the embankment, that most of the estate was lowlying and would be reduced to useless bhil land on its removal. In this he was supported by Rai K. Banerjee Bahadur, who appeared on behalf of the Receiver of this estate. He laid stress on the fact that the river section at Comilla is double that at Jafarganj and asked that two spills might be made, one to the north and the other to the south, somewhere near Bilar hât. The Chairman pointed out that proposals for these two spills had already been examined by engineers and rejected in 1889. The tenants of this estate also spoke vehemently against the proposed demolition. They said that before the building of the embankment the Gangamandal pargana was a waste, very sparsely inhabited, but that now though lowlying it was prosperous and supported a large population. Several speakers suggested that the water from a spill in the north bank would probably find its way into the lowlying land of the Gangamandal pargana. The Manager of the Tippera Raj Estate said he was not much interested in the spill proposals, but wanted the north embankment to be demolished.

Enquiries by the Chairman elicited the fact that none of the estates had given any substantial help to their tenants who suffered last rains because of the breaching of the embankment.

Babu Kailash Chandra Bhattacharjee stated that the last year had shown that Comilla town was in imminent danger of severe flooding and asked that something should be done to improve matters. He had no definite suggestions to make.

The Agent of the Assam-Bengal Railway asked that the right embankment to the east of the Railway might be retained. The new bridge, which was almost complete, would afford sufficient outlet from water coming over a prepared spill as through a breach in the embankment. But it would not be sufficient for the excess water which would come if the whole right embankment east of the railway were removed. He asked if the left bank was not higher than the right and this was admitted.

Finally Rai K. Banerjee Bahadur pointed out that if the embankments were removed the weak spots in the natural bank would have to be strengthened by pitching to prevent scouring once the river began to overflow its banks.

By the Hon'ble MR. H. R. IRWIN :—

XIV. Will the Government be pleased to state— Statistics relating to the importation of tea into India.

(*i*) the quantity of tea imported into India during each of the last five years for which statistics have been compiled;

(*ii*) from what countries it has come, stating the quantity from each country;

(*iii*) the amount and rate of customs duty, if any, levied on the same; and

(*iv*) if the duty has been enhanced lately, to what extent it has been so enhanced?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"(*i*) The quantity of tea imported into India during each of the last five years is shown below :—

	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1911-12 ...	6,611,810	4,373,936	10,985,752
1912-13 ...	4,521,310	4,401,040	8,922,350
1913-14 ...	4,772,532	3,787,840	8,560,372
1914-15 ...	5,476,790	4,319,392	9,796,182
1915-16 ...	6,202,146	5,730,368	11,932,514

(*ii*) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(*iii*) The gross amount of customs duty levied during the last five years is shown below :—

	£
1911-12	13,952
1912-13	10,513
1913-14	10,756
1914-15	11,559
1915-16	12,887

The rate of customs duty previous to the 1st March, 1916, was 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

(*iv*) The duty was raised to 7½ per cent. *ad valorem* with effect from the 1st March, 1916."

Statement referred to by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD *in his Answer to Question No. XIV (unstarred) asked by the Hon'ble* MR. H. R. IRWIN *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December 1916.*

Statement showing the names of the countries from which tea was imported into India during the last five years and the quantity from each country both by sea and land :—

By Sea.

	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14	1914-15.	1915-16.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom	23,378	28,098	37,303	13,354	15,976
Aden and Dependencies ...	60	5,416	2,716	8,316	1,190
Ceylon	1,834,429	1,897,439	1,617,295	1,745,084	2,431,566
Straits Settlements (including Labuan).	610,372	693,524	589,240	563,585	720,625
Hong Kong	232,387	198,195	250,385	251,939	153,825
Zanzibar and Pemba	...	...	...	8,160	46
Other British Possessions ...	765	782	550	51	160
Total British Empire ...	2,701,391	2,823,454	2,397,489	2,590,489	3,323,388
Germany	1,440	720	6,640	10	28
Turkey, Asiatic—					
Red Sea	...	...	20	36	...
Persian Gulf	5	...	1,898	8,529	140
Persia	...	210	...	50,637	...
Java	72,717	104,833	89,031	68,361	288,965
China (exclusive of Hong Kong and Macao).	3,833,702	1,589,574	2,271,523	2,756,791	2,586,969
Japan	2,519	1,738	4,193	1,783	2,616
Other Foreign Countries ...	42	781	1,738	154	40
Total Foreign Countries ...	3,910 425	1,697,856	2,375,043	2,886,301	2,878,758
Total of Tea by Sea ...	6,611,816	4,521,310	4,772,532	5,476,790	6,202,146

By Land.

Indian—					
From Southern and Western Afghanistan. ...	6,272	3,584	...	...	...
,, Central Asia	...	...	224	784	2,128
,, Tibet	448	...	2,464	112	112
,, Nepal	12,880	30,128	18,592	4,816	40,880
,, Bhutan	112	...	112	...	...
Total ...	19,712	33,712	21,392	5,712	43,120
Foreign—					
From Tibet	21,752	13,664	67 536	20,160	42,000
,, Nepal	...	...	24,528	...	18,032
,, Bhutan	112	...	...	...	...
,, Western China	17,136	26,096	76,384	58,352	43,120
,, Kachin Country	...	11,312	28,112	30,800	89,936
,, North Siam	112	224	5,264	...	112
,, North Shan States ...	4,291,840	4,310,208	3,560,928	4,198,992	5,484,976
,, South Shan States ...	12,432	2,464	2,352	4,032	8,400
,, Karennee	7,840	3,360	1,344	1,344	672
Total ...	4,354,224	4,367,328	3,766,448	4,313,680	5,687,248
Total of Tea by Land ...	4,373,936	4,401,040	3,787,840	4,319,392	5,730,368

By the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ :—

Hostel accommodation of Muhammadan students.

XV. With reference to the reply given to my Unstarred Question No. XX at the meeting of Council of the 4th September last, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that there are at least four Muhammadan students living in a hide godown at No. 51, Upper Circular Road, and living in the midst of strangers?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. HORNELL :—

" It has been ascertained that two Muhammadan college students are living at No. 31, Upper Circular Road, with their uncle and guardian, who is the tenant of the house. It is a residential house and not a hide godown. There are also a scholar of the Madrasa, an ex-scholar of the same institution and a medical student in the house."

By the Hon'ble MR. ALTAF ALI :—

XVI. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the settlement operations in the Rajshahi Division have been indefinitely postponed? Settlement operations in the Rajshahi Division.

(*b*) If so, is there any reason for this step other than that of curtailment of expenditure necessitated by the war in Europe?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) Settlement operations are in progress in Rajshahi district. Under normal conditions they would have been initiated in the districts of Pabna and Bogra during the current year, but the settlement programme has been curtailed on account of the financial situation.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative "

By the Hon'ble MR. ALTAF ALI :—

XVII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Head Constable Paresh Chandra Bose, who was stationed at the Titagarh police-station, in the 24-Parganas, lost his life in the discharge of his duty in a scuffle with a number of gamblers whom he tried to arrest? Death of Head Constable Paresh Chandra Bose.

(*b*) If so, have the Government under consideration any proposal to provide for his family?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) It has been ascertained that on the night of the 26th October last information was received at the Titagarh police-station that gambling was going on in a public place. Head Constable Paresh Chandra Bose at once proceeded to the spot with a posse of constables and succeeded in arresting certain gamblers who were made over to the constables. After the arrests had been made, he suddenly fell backwards and died shortly after. He was not assaulted by any one and the gamblers offered no resistance. After a *post mortem* examination, the Civil Surgeon declared death to have been due to rupture of the wall of the heart caused by exertion, the heart being dilated with very thin walls.

(*b*) Government have not yet received any such proposal, but they understand that a petition from a relation of the deceased is now under the consideration of the Inspector-General of Police."

By the Hon'ble MR. ALTAF ALI :—

XVIII. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing— Malaria in Tangail.

(*i*) the number of deaths from malaria which have occurred in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district during the last five years;

(*ii*) the steps, if any, which have been taken to improve the sanitation of the locality in order to prevent malaria, and with what result;

(*iii*) how often the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal has visited the subdivision during the above period; and

(*iv*) how many miles he travelled into the interior of the subdivision on each occasion?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

" (*i*) Separate statistics of the mortality due to malaria are not available, the deaths from malarial fever being included in the statistics under the head 'Fever.'

(*ii*) During 1915-16 two Sub-Assistant Surgeons were deputed on anti-malarial duty for five months. An Assistant Surgeon and Sub-Assistant Surgeon were also deputed to Tangail in the same year to investigate malaria with special reference to a proposed drainage scheme. A grant of Rs. 9,616 and a loan of Rs. 10,000 were made by Government in the years 1913-14 and 1914-15, respectively, for the purpose of this drainage scheme, which is now under construction.

(*iii*) & (*iv*) The present Sanitary Commissioner has not visited the sub-division, but the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner has toured there thrice during the last five years. Information as to the number of visits made by previous Sanitary Commissioners is not available."

By the Hon'ble BABU ARUN CHANDRA SINHA :—

Upkeep of public temples in the Presidency.

XIX. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district, the number of temples in the Presidency to which the public have access and which have an income of Rs. 1,000 or more per annum?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many of these are maintained out of religious and charitable endowments, and how many have to depend for their maintenance on occasional gifts by pilgrims or other private sources?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) & (*b*) The information asked for is not in the hands of Government, and Government are not prepared to undertake the inquiry which would be necessary in order to obtain it."

By the Hon'ble BABU ARUN CHANDRA SINHA :—

Transfer of the headquarters station of the Noakhali district.

XX. (*a*) With reference to the reply given by the Hon'ble Mr. Cumming to a question asked by Nawab Saiyid Hossam Haider Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, at the Council meeting of the 13th March, 1915, with regard to the transfer of the headquarters station of the Noakhali district, owing to the continuous erosion of the land in the neighbourhood of the town of Noakhali by the river Meghna, will the Government be pleased to state the result of the observations carried out this year in this connection, and whether a final decision has been arrived at in the matter, and, if so, what the decision has been?

(*b*) If no decision has been arrived at, will the Government be pleased to state when a decision is likely to be made?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the possibility of protecting the existing town of Noakhali by diverting the current of the river through some other channel?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

" (*a*) The observations taken up to date during the present year show that the rate of erosion has been about the same as that of the previous two years. Government have at present come to no decision with regard to the transfer of the headquarters station of the Noakhali district.

(*b*) Government are not at present in a position to make any definite statement on the subject.

(*c*) The diversion of the river has been found to be impossible."

By the Hon'ble BABU ARUN CHANDRA SINHA :—

XXI. (*a*) Is it a fact that in a large number of the stations on the Eastern Bengal Railway and the Assam-Bengal Railway there is no provision for waiting-rooms or sheds for third and intermediate class passengers, male or female, and that where such sheds exist the accommodation is not adequate?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of having these inconveniences remedied as soon as possible?

Alleged lack of waiting-rooms and sheds on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"(*a*) On the Eastern Bengal Railway, except in the case of flag stations and a few stations where passenger traffic is small, all stations have waiting rooms or sheds for third and intermediate class passengers.

On the Assam-Bengal Railway practically every station has a booking hall with a verandah, the larger stations having separate waiting sheds.

(*b*) The matter is receiving the attention of the Railway Administrations concerned, but it will not be possible to provide much additional accommodation until normal financial conditions are restored."

By the Hon'ble BABU ARUN CHANDRA SINHA :—

XXII. (*a*) Are the Government aware that many navigable rivers and other waterways, as well as a very large number of tanks in the Presidency, are gradually being silted up, or the water in them is being rendered unfit for domestic and agricultural purposes, owing to the extensive growth in them of a plant called the water-hyacinth?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether they are taking any steps to remedy this evil?

Plague of the water-hyacinth.

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the information contained in the Press *Communiqué* of April 25, 1916, a copy of which is laid on the table."

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

AGRICULTURAL BRANCH.

Calcutta, the 25th April 1916.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

IN view of recent correspondence in the Press on the subject of "Water-hyacinth, the following information may be of interest. The "Water-hyacinth" (*Eichornia Crassipes*) is found in most parts of Bengal. Botanically, it is not a hyacinth, but its beautiful purple flower has a considerable resemblance to the real hyacinth. Its appearance in Eastern Bengal is believed to date from about five years ago, since when it has spread very rapidly and in many places has blocked tanks and waterways. The same plant has been found to interfere with navigation in Florida, Australia and Indo-China. The Department of Agriculture in Bengal has been investigating the subject during the past two years. Though it is possible that some commercial use may yet be found for the plant, a more hopeful prospect lies in establishing its value for agricultural purposes as a manure. Analysis has already shown that "Water-hyacinth" contains a large percentage of potash, and tests of the use of the plant as manure will be carried out on the Dacca Farm this year, and the results will be published in due course. If the manurial value of the plant be fully established and widely recognised, it is hoped that cultivators will put it to this use and thus prevent it spreading as a harmful weed.

By the Hon'ble BABU ARUN CHANDRA SINHA :—

XXIII. (*a*) Are the Government aware that much inconvenience is being felt by the inhabitants of the island of Hatiya owing to the discontinuance of the daily steamer service between that island and Noakhali?

(*b*) Have the Government any proposal before them for restoring the steamer service in near future?

Want of a daily steamer service between the Island of Hatiya and Noakhali.

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

" (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Steamer Companies concerned are unable to maintain a daily service owing to the requisition by Government of a number of their steamers for more important duties in connection with the war. When these steamers have been released by Government, the Steamer Companies will take steps to reintroduce a daily service."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Embankments on the Ajai river.

XXIV. (*a*) Is it a fact that a proposal has been submitted to Government involving the taking over of the zemindari embankment, on the north bank of the river Ajai, with a view to ensure the protection of the lands and villages on the north of the Ajai, in the district of Birbhum, from damage by floods?

(*b*) Are the Government taking any action to repair the breaches in the embankment on the southern bank of the Ajai between Satkonia and Sagarpootal?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the opinion has been recorded that the existence of this embankment subjects the country down to Sagarpootal to damage by floods?

(*d*) Are the Government also aware that the area of the land lying between the Ajai and the Kunoor, and the villages south of the Damodar, in the district of Burdwan, are damaged almost every year by floods?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

" (*a*) A proposal to repair a short length of embankment on the north bank of the river Ajai at Baledangal in the district of Birbhum is now before the Bengal Government for decision. The length of this embankment is approximately 1 mile only and will protect a very small area on the north bank in the village of Naranpur.

(*b*) Yes, it is hoped that all breaches in the embankments mentioned will be completely repaired before June of the year 1917.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes, to a certain extent."

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM asked the following SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :—

Are the Government making an inquiry as to the extent of the damage caused by the floods of the Ajai and Kunoor rivers?

The Hon'ble MR. BEATSON BELL said :—

" An inquiry as now being made by a Superintending Engineer. We are awaiting a final report "

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Condition of Ajai embankment near Satkonia.

XXV. (*a*) Is it a fact that before the year 1913 the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer of Idilpur submitted a report to the higher authorities to the effect that the Ajai embankment near Satkonia and Bhedia was in a bad condition and that there was every danger of a breach and suggested that the embankment should be repaired?

(*b*) If so, what action was taken on his report?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

" (*a*) It does not appear that any such report has been received. It is a fact that the breaching of the embankment No. 29 in its 4th mile was reported by the Subdivisional Officer of Idilpur on the 15th of June, 1911.

(*b*) The report alluded to in (*a*) above led to an examination of the system of Schedule D embankments on the Ajai river. An estimate (Rs. 23,990) was prepared for raising Schedule D embankments Nos. 27, 28 and 29 on the right bank of the river to a height of 3 feet above the high-flood level of 1911. This raising was not however carried out, as subsequent inquiries raised doubts as to the soundness of the proposal."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Judicial work in Burdwan Courts.

XXVI. (*a*) Are the Government aware that some of the Deputy Magistrates at the headquarters of the Burdwan district are in the habit of taking up judicial work late in the afternoon, *i.e.*, at 2 o'clock, and then they sit on till late in the evening, sometimes till 8 o'clock?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that witnesses and parties are summoned to attend court at 10 A.M and are required to wait till late in the evening, even when it is known to the court that their cases are not to be taken up that day?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that this practice causes great inconvenience to witnesses, to parties and to their legal advisers?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing instructions to the effect that judicial work should be taken up earlier in the day and that Deputy Collectors should do their revenue work after attending to their judicial duties?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) Government are not aware that any Deputy Magistrates at the headquarters of the Burdwan district habitually take up judicial work late in the afternoon. It is a fact that Magistrates sometimes sit until 7 o'clock, but this does not often occur.

(*b*) & (*c*) Government are aware that witnesses and parties are required to attend at 10 o'clock. It is not a fact that they are required to wait till late in the evening, even when it is known to the Court that their cases are not to be taken up that day.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative It is not practicable to lay down a rule that judicial work should always be taken up first. Magistrates are well aware that it is their duty to see that witnesses are not unnecessarily detained, and special attention is paid to this point at inspections."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Separation of judicial and revenue duties in Burdwan.

XXVII. (*a*) Are the Government aware that Magistrates presiding over Criminal Courts in Burdwan, are required to do revenue and other miscellaneous work in addition to trying cases, and that this results in the interruption of their judicial duties and also is the cause of inconvenience to the litigant public?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing instructions to the effect that Deputy Magistrates at headquarters who are doing judicial work should be relieved of their revenue and other duties and that those doing revenue and other work should be relieved of their judicial duties?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

" (*a*) Government are aware that some of the Magistrates who preside over the Criminal Courts in Burdwan do revenue and miscellaneous work in addition to their judicial duties. Government are not aware that this results in the interruption of their judicial duties and is the cause of inconvenience to the litigant public.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative."

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM asked the following SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :—

Is it not a fact that Magistrates sitting in Court and doing judicial duties are interrupted in their work by having to attend to references from the Revenue and Miscellaneous Departments?

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"That is a new question altogether, and I ask for notice."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Appointment of Muhammadans in the District Judge's offices at Birbhum.

XXVIII. Will the Government be pleased to state the number of appointments made in the ministerial establishment of the offices under the District Judge of Birbhum, since the issue of the Government circular about the appointment of Muhammadans in ministerial posts, and also to state how many of these appointments have been given to Muhammadans?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"Since the issue of the circular to the District Judge of Birbhum, 7 permanent and 55 temporary appointments have been made. Of these, 4 permanent and 22 temporary appointments were given to Muhammadans."

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM asked the following SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :—

Of these appointments how many are new appointments and how many only promotions from one grade to another?

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"We do not know."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Juma prayers and the Muhammadan Mukhtars of Burdwan.

XXIX. (*a*) Is it a fact that Government have issued a circular to the effect that Muhammadan employés in Government offices, and those having business in the mufassal courts, should be given facilities for saying their *Juma* prayers?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that some of the Criminal Courts in Burdwan have refused the requests of Muhammadan Mukhtars and others for time to enable them to say their *Juma* prayers in the mosque which is situated in the Court compound?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the refusal of Magistrates to allow time for *Juma* prayers has caused much inconvenience to Muhammadans having business in these courts?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) A copy of the orders issued by Government on the subject is laid on the table.

(*b*) It has been ascertained that one case occurred in the Criminal Courts at Burdwan in which a Muhammadan Mukhtar, who appeared jointly with a Hindu Mukhtar, asked the Magistrate to stop the proceedings that he might go and say his prayers. The Magistrate declined to accede to the request on the ground that the Hindu Mukhtar could continue to conduct the case in his absence

(*c*) The answer is in the negative."

Orders referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr *in his answer to question No. XXIX asked by the* Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

No. 5746P., dated Calcutta, the 21st November 1912.

From—The Hon'ble Mr. C. J. Stevenson-Moore, C.V.O., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

The question whether it is necessary to allow leave for an hour or two on Fridays to Muhammadan employés of Government to enable them to say their *Juma* prayers has recently been under the consideration of Government, and I am directed to communicate to you the following orders on the subject.

2. The Governor in Council is of opinion that no hard and fast rule need be laid down as the conditions prevailing in different parts of the Presidency vary, and any general direction may interfere with the satisfactory working of the machinery of Government. At the same time it is desirable that reasonable facilities should be granted to all communities to perform their religious duties and His Excellency is accordingly pleased to direct that permission should be given on Fridays to such Muhammadan employés of Government as ask for it, to say their *Juma* prayers, on the understanding that they make up the time by working extra hours during the week, if necessary.

3. I am to request that these orders may be communicated to all District and Subdivisional Officers in your division.

By the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem :—

Provincial Judicial Service and Small Cause Court Judgeships.

XXX. Will the Government be pleased to state how many members of the Provincial Judicial Service have been appointed as Judges or Registrars of the Calcutta Small Cause Court since 1900, and how many of them were Muhammadans?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr :—

"Since 1900 three officers of the Provincial Judicial Service have been appointed Judges of the Small Cause Court, Calcutta, and two have been appointed to the post of Registrar. None of these officers was a Muhammadan."

By the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem :—

Internment, under the Defence of India Act.

XXXI. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of persons who have been interned since the 11th August, 1916, under the Defence of India Act, stating in each case the district to which they belong?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in each case, the suspect is informed of the grounds for the suspicion against him and that before orders are passed he is called upon to explain his conduct before a high official of the Government other than a police officer?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr :

"(*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answers given to the question (No. 22) asked by the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji on the 26th July, 1915, and to the question (No. XXXIV) asked by the Hon'ble Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar on the 4th September 1916.

(*b*) All representations made by or on behalf of the suspect are examined by an executive officer of Government before orders are passed; and such orders are subsequently examined by a judicial officer. The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply given to-day to the question asked by the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta."

By the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem :—

Gun licenses in Burdwan district.

XXXII. (*a*) Are the Government aware that great damage is caused to crops in the district of Burdwan by wild boars and other animals?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Government have fixed the number of gun licenses to be granted in each district and that District Magistrates are allowed to exercise their discretion only within the limits of the number so fixed or sanctioned?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a large number of applications for gun licenses have had to be refused by the District Magistrate of Burdwan because the sanctioned number could not be exceeded, although otherwise there was no objection to the grant of gun licenses to the applicants?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) It is reported by the District Officer that the damage caused to crops in Burdwan by wild boars and other animals is not great

(*b*) In 1908 orders were issued by Government that Divisional Commissioners and District Officers should, in consultation, fix the number of licenses in each form that might appropriately be granted in each district and that the standard should be reconsidered every three years Standards have been fixed accordingly in the Burdwan Division. The standard was last revised in 1914, and a further revision will take place next year.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative. The number of licenses issued in Burdwan is below the standard fixed for the district."

By the Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM :—

Muhammadan representation in certain municipalities.

XXXIII. Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of Municipal Commissioners, the number of Muhammadans, and how many of the latter are elected and how many appointed by Government, and also the proportion of the Muhammadan population in each of the following municipalities, namely :—

(1) Howrah,
(2) Hooghly-Chinsura,
(3) Serampore,
(4) Konnagore,
(5) Baidyabati,
(6) Bally,
(7) Bankura,
(8) Katwa, and
(9) Kalna.

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"A statement is laid on the table."

Statement referred to in the answer by the HON'BLE MR. DONALD *to question No. XXVIII (unstarred) asked by the* HON'BLE MAULVI ABUL KASIM *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

[Number of Muhammadan Municipal Commissioners.†].

Name of the Municipality.	Total number of Municipal Commissioners.	Total.	Elected.	Nominated.	Percentage of Muhammadans to total population.
Howrah	30	3	3	Nil	25 per cent
Hooghly-Chinsura	18	2	Nil	2	15 ,,
Serampore	15	1	Nil	1	19 ,, *
Rishra-Konnagore	12	1	Nil	1	
Baidyabati	12	1	Nil	1	11 ,,
Bally	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	16 ,,
Bankura	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	4 ,,
Katwa	12	2	1	1	19 ,,
Kalna	15	2	Nil	2	9 ,,

* This represents the percentage of Muhammadan population in the old Serampore Municipality before its subdivision into Serampore and Rishra-Konnagore as separate figures for the Muhammadan population of the new Municipalities are not available.

† Excluding *ex-officio* Commissioners

By the Hon'ble MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY :—

Muhammadans and the Provincial Judicial Service.

XXXIV. Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of officers (Subordinate Judges and Munsiffs) in the Provincial Judicial Service, and the number of Muhammadans holding permanent posts in that service?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"The total number of Subordinate Judges and Munsiffs employed in Bengal is 293. The number of Muhammadans holding permanent posts in the Provincial Judicial Service is nine."

By the Hon'ble MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY :—

Muhammadans and officiating Munsiffships.

XXXV. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the average, for the last five years, of officiating appointments as Munsiffs made in a year and the number of Muhammadans appointed to those posts in each year;

(*ii*) the number of Muhammadan candidates whose names have been enrolled by the High Court as eligible for appointment in the Provincial Judicial Service;

(*iii*) the names of such Muhammadan candidates who have been given officiating appointments and the respective dates of their first appointment?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"A statement containing the required information is laid on the table."

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR *to Question No. XXV (unstarred) asked by the Hon'ble* MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

			Number of Offg. Munsifs.	Number of Muhammadans.
(*i*)	1912	.. ...	14	Nil.
	1913	... ...	20	1
	1914	... ...	15	Nil.
	1915	... ...	21	1
	1916	... ...	7	Nil.
		Total ...	77	
		Average ...	15	Muhammadan candidates
(*ii*)	1912	... ...	...	Nil.
	1913	.. ...	...	2
	1914	... ...	...	Nil.
	1915	... ...	...	Nil
	1916	... ...	.	Nil.

(*iii*) (1) Sayyid Amjad Ali—
Date of enrolment ... 23rd June, 1913.
Date of appointment ... 3rd July, 1913.

(2) Muhammad Abul Ahsan—
Date of enrolment ... 29th May, 1913.
Date of appointment ... 3rd December, 1915.

By the Hon'ble MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY :—

Communal representation in the Provincial Judicial Service.

XXXVI. Are the Government considering the desirability of following the principle of communal representation in making appointments to the Provincial Judicial Service whenever eligible Muhammadan candidates are available, as is done in the case of appointments to the Provincial Executive Service?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"The answer is in the negative.

Under the provisions of the Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts Act, 1887, the Local Government are bound to appoint persons nominated by the High Court."

By the Hon'ble MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY :—

Promotions in the Provincial Judicial Service

XXXVII. (*a*) Are the Government aware that in the High Court's General Letter No. 5, dated the 28th April, 1916, it was decided that promotions in the subordinate grades of the Provincial Judicial Service would ordinarily be given according to seniority?

(*b*) Has there been any departure lately from the above principle? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) A copy of the letter referred to is laid on the table.

(*b*) Promotions are made in accordance with the principles stated in the letter."

Copy of letter referred to by the Hon'ble MR. KERR *in his answer to Question No. XXXVII (unstarred) asked by the Hon'ble* MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

GENERAL LETTER No. 5.

TO THE DISTRICT JUDGE OF

Dated Calcutta, the 28th April, 1916.

SIR,

High Court, English Department (Civil)

I AM directed to request that you will be so good as to bring the following matter prominently to the notice of the members of the Provincial Judicial Service employed in your district.

2. The High Court have hitherto made recommendations for promotion in the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service in accordance with the principles laid down in the following rule :—

> "Promotion to grades below that on Rs. 600 a month will ordinarily be given according to seniority, subject to fitness and approved conduct. But the Lieutenant-Governor* reserves to himself the right to make promotion to the senior grades of the Provincial Service by special selection for merit without regard to seniority, and hereby declares that seniority alone shall not give a claim to appointment to the grade on Rs. 600 or higher grades.

* Now the Governor in Council

3. The general conditions governing appointments to the Provincial Civil Services have now been reconsidered by the Government of India in connection with the inquiries made by the Public Services Commission, and the principles determined for future guidance are set out in the Home Department Resolution Nos. 1046-58, dated the 19th August, 1916, which contains the following condition relating to promotion :—

> "The Local Government should reserve to itself the right to make promotion to the superior grades of the Provincial Civil Service without regard to seniority, and seniority alone should not give a claim to appointment to the grade of Rs. 500 a month and higher grades."

4. The Judges have decided, in concurrence with the Government of Bengal, that the condition above referred to should be strictly applied to the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service. Accordingly, in future, they will recommend to Government for promotion to the superior grades of the service only officers who, on their merits, are clearly entitled to such promotion; and the members of the Service should, therefore, understand that seniority alone will give no claim to appointments in the grade on Rs. 500 a month and higher grades.

5. The Judges have also decided, in order to give effect to this principle, to procure as much information as possible regarding the merits of each candidate for promotion. In addition to the character reports submitted by District Judges annually, special reports will be called for on the merits and work of officers due for promotion to the grade of Rs. 500 and upwards, and such material as may be available from the records of the High Court will also be carefully examined, so that the case of every officer will receive detailed consideration before he is recommended for promotion.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

H. M. LEITCH,

Registrar.

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY:—

Experts in Agricultural Department.

XXXVIII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many experts there are in the Agricultural Department who are engaged in scientific investigation; and how long the respective scientific branches have been in existence?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to give a *résumé* of such outstanding results of practical utility as have been obtained from research work in these branches up to date?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR KEFR

"(*a*) The details of the expert staff of the Department of Agriculture will be found on page 385 of the Bengal Civil List, corrected up to 1st October, 1916. The Fibre Expert, the Agricultural Chemist and the Economic Botanist are more particularly engaged in scientific investigation, and their branches of work have been in existence respectively for 10, 9 and 7 years.

(*b*) The Hon'ble Member will find a full and interesting account of their work and of the practical results obtained in the Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ending June 30, 1916, which will be published this month."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY:—

Results of agricultural research.

XXXIX. (*a*) Is it a fact that among the most important results of agricultural research are—

(*i*) a species of paddy named *Indrasail*, and
(*ii*) a species of jute termed *Kakia Bombai*,

which have been obtained by a process of selection?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state when these results were obtained; also what practical steps have been taken up to date for introducing these improved species of crops among cultivators, and with what measure of success?

(*c*) What has been, year by year, the approximate total area in Bengal, excluding Government farms, which has been sown with the seed of each of these improved types of crops?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Owing to these varieties having each been produced from selected single plants, the determination of their economic value could only be arrived at after they had been multiplied on a sufficiently large scale to permit of field trials. This may be said to have been effected last year.

(*c*) Until the current year the areas outside the Government farms under *Indrasail* paddy and *Kakia Bombai* jute were small.

This year seed sufficient to sow 2,000 acres of *Indrasail* paddy and 1,500 acres of *Kakia Bombai* jute was distributed to cultivators."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Demonstrators in the Agricultural Department.

XL. (*a*) What is the total number of demonstrators now employed in the Agricultural Department?

(*b*) Is it a fact that several demonstrators were discharged a few months back?

(*c*) If so, how many were so discharged, what was the length of service in each case; and what were the grounds on which they were discharged?

(*d*) Is it a fact that they had undergone training at the public expense before being employed?

(*e*) Where and for what particular work were they trained?

(*f*) Were they in the enjoyment of any stipend during their period of training?

(*g*) If so, for what periods and at what rates?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) Sixty-two

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Twenty-one men were discharged. The length of service varied from six months to about two years. The grounds for the discharge of the twenty one men were the reduction of the demonstration staff owing to the separation of the statistical from the purely agricultural work in the districts. In reappointing the new demonstrating staff preference was given to the sons of cultivators. The twenty one men discharged were offered employment on the statistical side for four months in the year in Western Bengal and five months in Eastern Bengal.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) They were trained as apprentices at the various Agricultural Stations in 'general farm work.'

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) Yes, at Rs. 15 per mensem for periods varying from one to two years."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Deputy Directorship of Fisheries.

XLI. (*a*) Is it a fact that the appointment of the Deputy Director of Fisheries was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for four years only? If so, when will the term of the present incumbent expire?

(*b*) Is he attached to the Department of Agriculture? What is precisely the relation between the two?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) The appointment of the Deputy Director of Fisheries was originally sanctioned for two years in 1911. It was extended for a further period of two years, which expired on 4th December, 1915. The Secretary of State has since sanctioned the permanent appointment of a fishery expert.

(*b*) The Deputy Director of Fisheries is at present attached to the Agricultural Department for administrative purposes."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Labours of the Department of Fisheries.

XLII. (*a*) What outstanding results of practical utility have been obtained in the matter of propagation and protection of fishes from the labours of the Department of Fisheries since the appointment of the Deputy Director?

(*b*) What progress has been made up to date in the investigation of the habits of fresh-water fishes especially carp and *hilsa* which was stated some time back to have been engaging the attention of the department?

(*c*) Has the proposed investigation of the resources of the Sundarbans estuaries been accomplished? If so, with what results?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) & (*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to pages 8—34 of Bulletin No. V of the Department of Fisheries and to paragraph 15 of the Report on the Department of Agriculture Bengal, for the year ending June 30, 1915. He will find further information in the Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ending June 30, 1916, which will be published in the course of this month.

(*c*) The proposed further investigation of the resources of the Sundarbans estuaries has not yet been accomplished, as the time of the Deputy Director has been fully occupied in connection with fresh-water fisheries, but the information which has already been obtained on this subject has been brought together in Bulletin No. IV of the Department of Fisheries. Copies of the publications referred to are laid on the table."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Expenditure on the Fisheries Department.

XLIII. (*a*) What amount is annually spent on the maintenance of the Department of Fisheries?

(*b*) How much of this amount is due to salaries and how much to travelling allowances; and what proportion of each of these items is credited to the Indian element in the establishment?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) The expenditure for the last three years on the maintenance of the Department of Fisheries has been as follows :—

	Rs
1913-14	61,361
1914-15	55,927
1915-16	37,431

(*b*)

	1913-14. Rs.	1914-15. Rs.	1915-16. Rs.
Salaries	16,449	15,686	16,021
Establishment	2,300	2,797	3,029
Travelling allowances of officers	7,498	6,882	6,048
Travelling allowance of establishment	1,161	1,262	1,062

The expenditure on salaries of Indians has been as follows :—

	Amount. Rs.	Proportion.
1913-14	6,225	37·8
1914-15	7,142	45·5
1915-16	7,021	44·4

As regards travelling allowance, the proportion cannot be ascertained without making calculations which would involve labour out of proportion to the value of the information.

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Provident Societies in Bengal.

XLIV. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total numl of existing Provident Societies in Bengal registered under the Provid Insurance Societies Act?

(*b*) How many Provident Societies are registered under the Ind Companies Act of 1882?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"(*a*) There are at present 45 companies in Bengal, registered under Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 (V of 1912).

(*b*) Thirty-nine existing Provident Societies are registered under Indian Companies Act, 1882 (VI of 1882)."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Inquiries under the Provident Insurance Societies Act.

XLV. (*a*) How many inquiries have been held under the provisi of section 17 of the Provident Insurance Societies Act, and in the case of h many Provident Societies since the promulgation of that Act, and with wl results?

(*b*) In how many instances, if any, has the registry of a society b cancelled under section 18 of the Act, and for what reasons?

(*c*) In how many instances have societies been dealt with under penal provisions of sections 21 and 22 of the Provident Insurance Societ Act?

(*d*) How many criminal prosecutions have there been of Provid Societies and of persons in responsible positions in such societies respecti their administration, and on what charges and with what results?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"(*a*) Ten inquiries under section 17 of the Provident Insurance Societ Act, 1912, were instituted into the affairs of 10 Provident Societies with following results :—

In five cases, the society's certificate was cancelled.
In two cases, the society went into liquidation.
In two cases, inquiries are still pending.
In one case, the society is still carrying on business.

(*b*) In five instances the registry of the society was cancelled un section 18 of the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912, in each case as result of an inquiry held under section 17 of the Act.

(*c*) Eight societies have been dealt with under section 21 of the Provid Insurance Societies Act, 1912, and none under section 22.

(*d*) In addition to the prosecutions of societies mentioned in the reply part (*c*) of this question, criminal prosecutions have been instituted in f cases against persons holding positions of responsibility in Provident Societi Two cases resulted in conviction for cheating and criminal misappropriati one case of criminal misappropriation was dismissed, and another withdra for want of sufficient evidence The remaining case, which is one of cheati is still pending."

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

Augmentation Grant and the assignment of Public Works Cess to District Boards.

XLVI. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table all mater papers and correspondence that passed between the Local Government a the Government of India relating to—

(*i*) the "Augmentation Grant" made by the Government of India the District Boards since 1905; and

(*ii*) the assignment of the Public Works Cess to the District Boards

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"Government are unable at present to lay the papers asked for on t table."

Substitute the following statement for the one published at page 56[illegible] of the abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council of the 13th December, 1916.

Statement referred to in the answer by the HON'BLE MR. KERR *to question No. XLVI asked by the* HON'BLE BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

District Boards.	1913-14.			1914-15.			1915-16.			Average annual Government grants withdrawn from 1913-14.
	Gross Public Works Cess.	Charges for collection of Public Works Cess	Augmentation grants	Gross Public Works Cess.	Charges for collection of Public Works Cess.	Augmentation grants	Gross Public Works Cess.	Charges for collection of Public Works Cess.	Augmentation grants.	
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
Burdwan ...	2,03,765	2,472	51,883	2 65,687	2,339	53,711	2,63,341	2,376	40,296	33,669
Birbhum ...	82,599	222	15,756	78,567	219	18,313	82,359	2 36	16,671*	17,332
Bankura ...	56,142	126	10,914	58,114	136	12,841	51,519	193	11,334†	31,538
Midnapore ...	2,03,661	2 398	39,977	2,06,054	2,462	49,722	2,02 628	2,431	40,301	38,419
Hooghly ...	1,11,094	1,624	20 312	1 08,020	1,910	24,092	1,07,411	1,930	21,860	29,746
Howrah ...	55 547	812	10 106	54,010	955	12.277	50,270	965	10,930	14,263
24-Parganas ...	1,79,910	6,607	30,907	2,17 723	2 406	36,346	2,11,777	1,755	33,746	27,986
Nadia ...	95,248	5,207	16,156	87,532	5,471	20,078	1,06,316	1,790	17,081	6,876
Murshidabad ...	91,314	581	18,515	84,417	609	22.001	92,676	582	18,267	6,064
Jessore ...	71,031	5,222	19,726	1,06,401	1,716	21,469	1,11,131	1,267	12,307	11,533
Khulna ...	1,19,850	5,565	23,586	1,18,765	6,519	27,709	1,15,160	3,418	22,053	29,931
Dacca ...	1,21,175	852	22,321	1,32,012	919	27,658	1 23,863	1,191	21,250	31 592
Mymensingh ...	2,77,478	309	52,578	2,49,261	339	63 558	2,74 213	379	56 227	27,362
Faridpur ...	81,585	814	14,608	94,150	834	15,973	64,850	858	16,212	27,471
Bakarganj ...	2,26,316	4,134	41,869	2,23,654	6,693	57 007	2 31,801	8,077	44,089	30,846
Chittagong ...	1,30,641	453	24 249	1,22 407	540	30,016	1,20,571	548	26,239	10,946
Tippera ...	1 36,791	6,231	22 608	1,28,383	4 267	26,960	1,28,531	319	25,218‡	34,261
Noakhali ..	1 08,303	747	20,052	1,11,822	691	26,705	1 10,441	718	21,669	17,182
Rajshahi ...	1,05,508	655	20,017	1,04,310	668	24,636	1,05,109	2,675	21,151	11,657
Rajpur ...	1,06,673	1,127	21,041	1,05 357	2,773	24,658	1.16,272	365	19,984	12,875
Jalpaiguri ...	81,751	69	15 988	83 492	68	19,359	1,09,078	69	16,572	4,975
Rangpur ...	1,69,508	848	31,969	1,63 269	1,050	39,273	1 77,816	1,292	34,052	12,625
Bogra ...	65,421	219	10,546	62,690	205	12,885	66,666	229	13,193	3,900
Pabna ...	82,850	363	15,641	80,319	355	19,166	83,132	390	16,657	11,933
Malda ..	56,319	241	8,566	54.205	358	11,019	56,902	278	11,334	1,499
Darjeeling Road Committee.	27,558	1.025	4,622	23,656	...	5,823	27,304	...	5,389	...

* Rupees 25,000 was also allotted to the Birbhum District Board in 1915-16 from arrears of the augmentation grant which were made available this year.
† Rupees 82,666 ditto Bankura ditto ditto ditto ditto.
‡ Rupees 27,946 ditto Tippera ditto ditto ditto ditto.

B. S. Press—31-3-1917—3535J—350—F. T. R.

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :—

XLVII. Will the Government be pleased to make a statement showing :— Grants to District Boards.

(*i*) the gross receipts from the Public Works Cess, and the expenses entailed in the collection thereof, in each district in Bengal for the last five years;

(*ii*) the augmentation grants made to the District Boards in Bengal, and the amounts thereof that have fallen to the share of each District Board, during the last five years; and

(*iii*) all grants or subventions from Imperial or Provincial funds, which have been withdrawn or curtailed concomitantly with the assignment of the Public Works Cess to the local bodies, and the average annual receipts from them by each District Board for five years preceding such withdrawal or curtailment?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*i*), (*ii*) & (*iii*) A statement is laid on the table, giving figures for the last three years. The gross receipts under the head 'Public Works Cess' are not available for each district previous to the year 1913-14."

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR *to Question No. XLVII asked by the Hon'ble* BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY *at the Council Meeting of the 13th December, 1916.*

District Boards.	1913-14			1914-15			1915-16.			Average annual Government grants withdrawn from 1913-14.
	Gross Public Works Cess.	Charges for collection of Public Works.	Augmentation grant.	Gross Public Works Cess.	Charges for collection of Public Works.	Augmentation grants.	Gross Public Works Cess.	Charges for collection of Public Works.	Augmentation grants.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Burdwan ...	2,03,765	2,472	51,833	2,65,687	2,339	53,711	2,63,341	2,376	40,296	33,669
Birbhum ...	82,599	222	15,736	78,567	219	18,313	82,359	236	16,671	17,332
Bankura ...	56,112	126	10,944	58,111	136	12,841	51,519	193	11,334	31,538
Midnapore ...	2,03,661	2,308	39,977	2,06,054	2,462	49,722	2,02,628	2,431	40,301	38,419
Hooghly ...	1,11,094	1,634	20,312	1,08,020	1,910	24,012	1,01,111	1,930	21,860	29,746
Howrah ...	55,517	812	10,106	54,010	955	14,277	50,270	965	10,930	14,263
24-Parganas ...	1,79,910	6,507	34,907	2,17,723	2,496	36,346	2,41,777	1,755	33,716	27,986
Nadia ...	95,248	5,207	16,156	87,532	5,471	20,078	1,06,316	1,790	17,081	6,876
Murshidabad ...	91,314	581	16,515	84,117	609	22,001	92,676	582	18,267	6,064
Jessore ...	71,031	5,222	19,726	1,06,401	2,574	21,469	1,11,131	1,267	12,304	14,583
Khulna ...	1,19,850	5,565	23,356	1,18,765	6,519	27,709	1,15,160	3,118	22,053	29,931
Dacca ...	1,21,175	852	22,324	1,32,012	919	27,658	1,23,863	1,191	21,250	31,592
Mymensingh ..	2,77,178	309	52,578	2,49,261	330	63,558	2,74,213	379	56,227	27,362
Faridpur ...	81,585	844	14,608	91,150	834	15,973	61,850	851	16,212	27,471
Bakarganj ...	2,26,316	4,134	41,869	2,23,654	6,693	57,017	2,31,891	8,477	44,089	30,846
Chittagong ...	1,30,641	453	24,249	1,22,402	540	30,016	1,20,571	548	26,239	10,946
Tippera‡ ...	1,39,796	6,231	22,608	1,28,363	4,267	26,960	1,28,531	319	25,213	31,261
Noakhali ...	1,08,303	747	20,052	1,14,822	691	26,705	1,10,441	718	21,669	17,182
Rajshahi ...	1,05,485	655	20,017	1,03,310	668	24,636	1,05,409	2,675	21,151	11,677
[illegible]pur ...	1,06,673	4,127	21,041	1,05,857	2,773	24,658	1,16,272	365	19,984	12,875
[illegible]guri ...	81,751	69	15,988	83,492	68	19,359	1,09,078	69	16,572	4,975
[illegible]pur ..	1,69,508	848	31,969	1,63,264	1,059	39,273	1,77,816	4,292	31,052	12,625
[illegible]gra ...	65,421	210	10,546	62,690	205	12,185	66,666	223	13,193	3,900
[illegible]bna ...	82,850	363	15,641	80,319	355	19,166	83,132	390	16,457	11,933
Malda ...	56,319	241	8,466	54,205	358	11,019	56,902	278	11,154	1,499
Darjeeling Road Committee.	27,558	1,025	4,622	23,656	..	5,823	27,304	...	5,385	

*Rupees 25,000 was re-allotted to the Birbhum District Board in 1914-15 from arrears of the augmentation grant which were made available this year.
† Rupees 85,686 ditto ditto Burdwan ditto ditto ditto ditto.
‡ Rupees 2,61,946 ditto ditto Tippera ditto ditto ditto ditto.

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :--

Sessions cases in the mufassal.

XLVIII. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement for each of the last five years, showing, district by district, the number of—

(*i*) cases tried at the Sessions; and the number of persons convicted or acquitted therein;

(*ii*) cases which were disposed of by a concurrence of Judge and jury or assessors;

(*iii*) references made to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, upon differences between Judge and jury;

(*iv*) such references in which the verdict of the jury was upheld in regard to all or a majority of the accused persons;

(*v*) appeals preferred to the High Court in cases tried with the help of a jury, and the results thereof;

(*vi*) appeals preferred to the High Court in cases tried with the help of assessors, and the results thereof;

(*vii*) appeals out of the number of those referred to in (*vi*) above, in which the decision of the High Court coincided with the opinion of assessors, in cases where the Judge did not agree with the opinions of the assessors?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the annual reports on the administration of criminal justice issued by the High Court, which contain a portion of the information required. Government are not prepared to undertake the compilation of statistics regarding the remainder, as they consider that the labour and trouble involved would be incommensurate with the results"

By the Hon'ble BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY :

Death sentences by the Courts of Session.

XLIX. (*a*) How many sentences of death were passed by the different Courts of Session during each of the last five years; how many of them were confirmed and how many altered by the High Court each year?

(*b*) In how many instances were further inquiries made at the instance of the High Court under section 375 of the Code of Criminal Procedure during each of the last five years, and with what results?

(*c*) In how many instances were convictions annulled and charges amended under section 376 (*b*), or convicted persons acquitted under section 376 (*c*), during each of the last five years?

(*d*) How many sentences of death have been commuted or otherwise interfered with, by the Government, during the same period, and in what manner?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the annual reports on the administration of criminal justice issued by the High Court, which contain a portion of the information required. Government are not prepared to undertake the compilation of statistics regarding the remainder, as they consider that the labour and trouble involved would be incommensurate with the results."

By the Hon'ble MR. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI :—

Percentage of Muhammadans in Rajshahi Division.

L. Will the Government be pleased to state the percentage of the Muhammadan population of the Rajshahi Division?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"According to the census of 1911 the percentage of Muhammadans in the population of the Rajshahi Division is 61."

By the Hon'ble MR. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI :—

LI. (*a*) Are the Government aware that great inconvenience is felt by the female railway passengers travelling in intermediate and third class carriages on the Eastern Bengal Railway in entering or alighting from trains where no platforms exist and no steps are provided? Inconvenience of female passengers on Eastern Bengal Railway.

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of requiring the Eastern Bengal Railway Company to provide steps for such passengers, like those which are provided at Goalundo for first and second class passengers?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"(*a*) Government are aware that a certain amount of inconvenience is felt by intermediate and third class female passengers on the broad gauge portion of the Eastern Bengal Railway, owing to the absence of facilities for entering or alighting from trains where no platform exists.

(*b*) At stations such as Goalundo and Santahar, where steps are provided for first and second class passengers, the railway authorities are arranging to supply steps also for the *zenana* compartments of the intermediate and third classes."

By the Hon'ble MR. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI :—

LII. (*a*) Is it a fact that there is a rule limiting the number of passengers which may be carried by the passenger steamers plying on the important rivers in the Presidency? Passenger steamer services in the Presidency.

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Steamer Companies carry more passengers than the rule prescribes?

(*c*) If the answer to clause (*b*) of the question is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of issuing instructions to the Steamer Companies enjoining the strict observance of the rule?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"(*a*) Yes, *vide* sections 6 (*1*), 11 and 54 A of the Inland Steam Vessels Act of 1884

(*b*) & (*c*) Government have no information that excess numbers of passengers are frequently or habitually carried on inland steamers, but if the Hon'ble Member will favour Government with any information that he may have to this effect, an inquiry will be made and the result communicated to the Hon'ble Member."

By the Hon'ble MR. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI :—

LIII. Will the Government be pleased to state whether the river steamers, which carry passengers, have a sufficient number of life boats for use in emergencies? Life boats in River Steamers.

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

"The scale of life-saving appliances is regulated by rules Nos. 23 and 24 on pages 56 and 57 of the Manual of Requirements for the Survey of Inland Steam Vessels, which is issued under the powers vested in Government by the Inland Steam Vessels Act, VI of 1884. All life-saving appliances are on board the vessel at the time of the survey and no ship is passed unless this is so, and unless all the appliances are in good condition and fully satisfy the rules. Inland steam vessels do not carry life boats, but ordinary open gigs and cutters, which have been found to be the most suitable form of boat for their requirements. Government are satisfied that the present rules are complied with by the Steamer Companies, but Government are now examining these rules in order to see whether the scale of boats and other appliances requires amendment."

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :—

Publication of the revised Survey and Settlement Manual.

LIV. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the desirability of publishing the revised Survey and Settlement Manual, together with the rules of procedure, at an early date?

(*b*) Is it under contemplation to publish also a Bengali edition of the above manual for the information and guidance of the masses?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) A volume containing the technical rules and instructions of the Settlement Department has recently been published. The Survey and Settlement Manual is under revision and will be published as early as possible.

(*b*) It is not intended to publish a Bengali edition of the Manual, but Bengali copies of the cadastral and khanapuri instructions will shortly be available for sale to the public."

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :—

Settlement operations in Rajshahi district.

LV. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the recovery of settlement costs has commenced in any part of the Rajshahi district?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state how the recoverable costs work out in that district per acre and how they have been apportioned between the various parties?

(*c*) Are the Government bearing any share of net expenditure of the settlement operations?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The cost of the settlement operations has not yet been worked out for the whole district.

The apportionment order has been issued only in one block the recoverable costs in respect of which work out to 14 annas 4 pies per acre, of which landlords of all classes are to pay 9 annas 8 pies and raiyats 4 annas 8 pies.

(*c*) One-fourth of the net expenditure as usual is borne by the State."

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :

Cost of settlement operations in Rajshahi district.

LVI. (*a*) What is the net profit per acre derived respectively by the landlord and his cultivator-occupancy raiyat?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the expenditure incurred by the landlords in connection with the supervision of the settlement operations has been very heavy?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the costs of the settlement operations in Rajshahi are to be distributed between the landlord and his cultivator-occupancy raiyat in the ratio of 2 to 1?

(*d*) If so, have the Government before them any proposal to reconsider this decision?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :

"(*a*) It is not possible to state generally the *net* profit derived respectively by landlord and raiyat from an acre of land. It depends on the rates of rent and revenue and on the nature of the soil and of the produce.

(*b*) Government are aware that some landlords incur heavy expenditure in connection with supervision of settlement operations.

(*c*) The apportionment order has been issued in respect of the first block only in the Rajshahi district. According to the order the cost will be recovered from landlords of all grades at the rate of 9 annas 8 pies per acre and from raiyats at 4 annas 8 pies per acre. This gives a ratio of 29 to 14.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :—

LVII. (*a*) Have the Government before them any proposal to reconsider the case of *patit* (waste) lands in the Rajshahi district with a view to exclude them either totally or to an appreciable extent from being charged for the costs of settlement operations? Settlement operations of *patit* lands in Rajshahi district

(*b*) Is it a fact that the zamindars do not derive any profit from these waste lands?

(*c*) Is it also a fact that these lands give no trouble to the Settlement Department?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"(*a*) No such proposal is before Government.

(*b*) Some zamindars derive profit from waste lands, and some are likely to do so in the future.

(*c*) Waste lands are surveyed and the rights in them are recorded; the labour involved in doing so is ordinarily less than in the case of cultivated lands, but it is not insignificant."

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :—

LVIII. Are the Government contemplating the recovery of the costs of the settlement operations in the Rajshahi district by instalments? Recovery of costs of settlement operations in Rajshahi district.

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"The rules permit recovery by instalments in the case of large demands at the discretion of the Settlement Officer; and Government do not propose to prescribe special rules for the Rajshahi district."

By the Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY :—

LIX. Have the Government considered the desirability of holding a conference of representative zamindars, tenants and Settlement officials of the Rajshahi district, in order to discuss and advise upon the manner in which the costs of the settlement operations in that district should be apportioned and realised from the various parties? Proposed conference regarding costs of settlement operations in Rajshahi district.

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. KERR :—

"No, but any suggestion which may be put forward will receive due consideration."

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

LX. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Kurseong Municipality has submitted a proposal to Government that it may be given power to levy a tax on stray dogs in that municipality, by amending, if necessary, the provisions on the point in the Bengal Municipal Act? Proposed tax on stray dogs in Kurseong Municipality.

(*b*) If so, what effect has been given to that representation?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"No such proposal has been received by Government."

By the Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI :—

LXI. (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Municipal Commissioners of Kurseong have approached Government, through the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, with the object of abolishing the dual control of the catchment area of the water-supply of Kurseong? Control of water-supply of Kurseong.

(*b*) If so, what decision has been arrived at?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD :—

"No such proposal has been received by Government."

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

His Excellency addressed the Council as follows :—

"I shall not keep you waiting for many minutes before we get to our ordinary business. I would not keep you at all, were it not that custom demands that the President should say something at the opening of each cold weather session. I am very glad to welcome you here. I hope that you may be able to do something useful during this session. I am sure you will, because not only will there be the budget to deal with, but I feel sure you will ask questions and perhaps move resolutions which will be of great interest, but I cannot promise you much legislative work. Indeed, at this moment it seems to me that there is only one Bill with which Government are at all likely to ask you to deal.

We hope to be able to introduce and pass the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, whose object is to supplement and amend the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, in respect of the alienation of land by aboriginals. I cannot, I fear, claim that this Bill will excite much interest: I do not think it will call forth much enthusiasm, but I hope it may prove to be useful.

I regret to say there seems to me no hope of our being able to do anything in regard to the Calcutta Municipal Bill during the present session. That Bill was one of the first things which I considered after I came to Bengal, and I have been sorry each year when it had to be put off.

I regret too that there is probably no chance of our being able to bring in, as I much hoped we might have done, the Bengal Village Self-Government Bill—a Bill which will, we hope, some day help to extend the system of self-government in Bengal. As you know, this Bill is mainly due to the labours of my colleague, Mr. Beatson Bell, and I feel sure that you will recognize its importance, and I did most sincerely hope that it would have been passed before I left Bengal, for I believe it will go a very long way towards making a sure foundation in Bengal, on which, in time, a very useful structure will be built. I can only hope that my successor may be more fortunate in regard to these measures than I have been, and that when eventually they can be brought in and passed, the people of Bengal will find that the delay has been for their advantage.

The war still affects us as it affects people in every part of the world, though not in the same manner. I wish to call your attention to one point. I, and probably you, have often been told how much other provinces have done in the way of sending officials to Military Service. You and I have been glad to hear it. I do not know whether you realize what Bengal has done in this way. If you do, I do not think you will feel that we here have any cause to be ashamed, especially when we consider the relative size of our cadres. Altogether Bengal has supplied 333 officers for some form of Military Service—71 have joined the Indian Army Reserve of Officers, including 23 men from the Indian Civil Service, 11 from the P. W. D., 9 from the Customs, 7 from the Education Department, and 7 from the Police. Many more officers would have liked to go, and offered to go, from each department, if we had been able to spare them. Ninety-four men have joined other units on active service. In addition to this, we have supplied 141 medical men, including 37 I.M.S. officers, 29 Military Assistant Surgeons, 75 Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons. Five Government servants have joined the Bengal Double Company, and about a dozen others served with the Bengal Ambulance Corps. Four of our officers have been killed in action; one died of disease while on service, and one is missing.

Before I sit down I would like to mention that soon, probably before our next meeting, you will all have a copy of a new edition of the Bengal Legislative Council Manual which the Bengal Legislative Department, and especially Mr. McKay, have carefully brought up-to-date and enlarged. I trust that it will be as useful to you as the earlier editions compiled by Mr. Wigley have been to members of this Council in the past."

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.*)

The Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta moved the following resolution :—

'This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that the system of trial by jury be extended to all those districts in Bengal in which it is not at present in force.'

He said :—

"My Lord, the Jury system was first inaugurated by the Criminal Procedure Code passed in 1861 (Act XXV of 1861), under section 322 of which the Government of Bengal introduced the system into 7 districts, *viz.*, the 24-Parganas, Hooghly, Burdwan, Murshidabad, Nadia, Patna and Dacca. This was in 1862. Thirty-five years after, *i.e.*, in 1897, the system was extended to 4 other districts, *viz.*, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Jessore. So that the system is now in force in 10 out of the 26 districts of Bengal (Patna no longer forming a part of Bengal).

I have now the honour of moving for the extension of the system to the remaining 16 districts of the Presidency.

Now, my Lord, my contention is that the time has now arrived—in fact it had arrived long before—when the system of Trial by Jury should be extended to all the remaining districts of Bengal. I shall not dwell upon the inherent merits of Jury trial as a system. They are universally admitted. But to make out a case in favour of my resolution, it lies on me only to establish that the system has worked satisfactorily in those districts in which it has been in force. It has now been under trial for over half a century and my submission is that it has been nothing but a success. But without giving my own humble opinion on this question, I propose to place before Your Excellency the verdict of competent authorities, both official and non-official, on the working of the Jury system in Bengal in chronological order.

Less than three years after the introduction of the system, the District Judge of Nadia expressed, in 1864, his decided opinion that it had worked well. From his actual experience of the trials in his court, he was satisfied that the presence of a Jury in criminal cases had been of essential assistance to himself, and was regarded by the Indians themselves as a safeguard against errors of judgment and a guarantee that all the details in a case would be fully understood before any conclusion was formed. He observed, 'Every year I hope to see an improvement of what, in its present stage, can only be regarded as an experiment.'

In 1865, the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Cecil Beadon, after an elaborate examination of the working of the system during the period of five years 'and on a review of the reports, submitted both by the executive and judiciary' came to the conclusion that the experiment had succeeded to an extent which was scarcely to be anticipated and that on the whole the Jurymen had discharged their duties intelligently and conscientiously. In the same year the High Court remarked that the Jury system worked well in the districts into which it had been introduced in 1862.

Two years later, in February 1867, Sir Cecil Beadon recorded his deliberate and mature conviction, 'founded on long experience and observation, and specially on the results of the system in the Lower Provinces, so far as it had been acted upon', that the trial of all offences before the courts of sessions, in all parts of the Lower Provinces, ought to be by Jury; and that the system might be universally adopted not only without prejudice to the administration of criminal justice, but with decided benefit to the courts, and with increased confidence on the part of the public in their judgments. He observed that it had been his invariable aim to select the most efficient and generally the most experienced officers at his disposal to serve as judges in the jury districts, and that it might be, in some degree, owing to the care with which selection of judges had been made that the system had been so entirely successful as far as it had been introduced. He added that even if there were one or two judges on the mufassal Bench who were not fully competent to direct a jury,

it seemed to him that this circumstance ought not to operate against the general introduction of a measure believed otherwise to be expedient.

My Lord, it is now precisely 50 years since one of the most illustrious rulers of the Province, Sir Cecil Beadon, proposed seriously and earnestly to extend the Jury system to all districts and to all offences triable by Courts of Session. Half a century of British rule has since elapsed—is it too much, my Lord, even now to claim the extension—a consummation which was so devoutly wished for in 1867? May I not very legitimately claim that my resolution is a very modest one? May it be reasonably said that I am asking for too much? Sir Cecil Beadon was not an impatient idealist or a visionary enthusiast. He was the responsible ruler of Bengal. Besides, his views were not looked upon as ultra-radical or fantastic—those were views in which the Government of India also coincided generally. And if the Government of India declined to extend the system to all districts and to all offences at that time, they did so, not because competent jurymen were not available in the country but because in their opinion competent judges were not then available —judges competent to advise and guide the jury properly. What an irony of fate it is that the people of a vast province were refused such a progressive institution for no other reason than that the judges were not competent to preside over a jury trial.

Seventeen years later, *i.e.*, in 1884, the Government of Bengal reopened the question of the extension of the jury system and asked the opinion of the High Court whether it was desirable to introduce Trial by Jury into other districts. The letter of the Government of Bengal, dated the 17th July, 1884, addressed to the High Court after a review of all the official reports on the working of the system from 1862 to 1884 concluded as follows :—" Without going so far as to pronounce the system of Trial by Jury to have been anything like a complete success, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that it has worked fairly well in the more advanced districts to which it has been applied. Occasionally, no doubt, bad verdicts had been given by juries and miscarriages of justice have resulted ; but since 1872, when at the suggestion of Mr. Justice Jackson, the law was amended and a reference to the High Court allowed in cases in which the presiding Judge considered the verdict given to be wrong, these have decreased in number. It will be seen from paragraph 7 of this letter that Sir Cecil Beadon advocated the extension of the system to all the districts of the Lower Provinces so far back as 1867, when it had been in force for only five years. This proposal was apparently abandoned in deference to the views which had been expressed by the High Court that a longer trial should be given to the system in the districts into which it had been originally introduced. Upwards of 14 years have elapsed since Sir Cecil Beadon's Resolution of February 1867 was recorded and Mr. Rivers Thompson thinks the time has now come when the matter might with advantage be reconsidered. I am accordingly to request that the Hon'ble Judges may be moved to favour him with expression of their opinion as to the advisability of extending the system to the districts named in the margin."*

*Midnapore, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Cuttack.

Sir Rivers Thompson was District Judge of jury districts for a considerable period and had thus enormous experience, which is the real training and education of men in responsibility, and was therefore pre-eminently in a position to speak with authority on the subject. This enhances the value of the deliberate opinion recorded by Sir Rivers Thompson about the success of the Jury system in Bengal.

The Judges of the High Court could not, however, agree. Justices Mitter, Norris and Ghosh were for extension, but the other Judges were not. The result was, that on this occasion also, the proposal of the Bengal Government for extension of the system had to be dropped. But, my Lord, more things happened in 1884 than I have yet described—in fact, I have presented only one side of the shield. The disappointment of the Indians in 1884 was more than compensated by the unusual advance made by the Europeans in this country in the matter of Trial by Jury. In that memorable year—memorable for more reasons than I can legitimately discuss here—during those troubled

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.*)

days, my Lord, the Europeans in this country were fighting tooth and nail for their rights and privileges as regards the administration of justice. They were very naturally keen about this valued right of Trial by Jury and they acquired it in 1884 after a stormy but triumphant agitation—an agitation which was so vehement and so violent that history has immortalised it by the dignified but sensational expression of "White Mutiny". Act III of 1884 gave every European British subject, charged with an offence, however trivial it may be, not only before a Sessions Judge but even before a District Magistrate, the right to claim to be tried by a jury of which not less than half the number shall be Europeans or Americans. It is a claim which cannot be made by an Englishman in a Magistrate's Court in his own country. Suppose a European of Faridpur or Comilla is charged with committing trespass or mischief, the pettiest of offences known to criminal law, before the District Magistrate, he can claim to be tried by a jury. But it is denied to an Indian citizen even if he is charged with murder in the Court of the Sessions Judge of the same place. This distinction between the Indians and Europeans is so remarkable and so glaring that it is not at all consistent with sound and impartial administration of justice. It is quite out of tune, my Lord, with the truly liberal policy which Your Excellency has been striving amid unparalleled difficulties to follow in Bengal. It is a distinction the perpetuation of which can by no means be consistent with wisdom and statesmanship. The distinction is naturally enough resented by my countrymen, and it is high time, my Lord, that it should be removed. I appeal to Your Excellency with all the earnestness that I can command to do away with this needless distinction between the Indians and Europeans as regards the right of trial by jury, so far of course as lies within Your Excellency's power.

But to return to my chronological story. I have brought it down to 1884. I am not aware whether there are any official reports between 1884 and 1890. The year 1892, however, is a very memorable year in the history of the Jury system in Bengal. But before I come to 1892, I propose to draw the attention of the Council to what the people, not only in Bengal, but throughout the length and breadth of the Indian continent, felt and thought and spoke about the Jury system. How keen the people of Bengal in particular were about this matter at this time will appear from an incident which occurred on the eve of Lord Ripon's departure from Calcutta on a certain occasion.

Before bidding farewell to one of the leaders of public opinion in Bengal, his Lordship asked "Now, tell me, my friend, what can I do for you"? To this the latter replied, going down on his knees, "My Lord, concede to us the right of Trial by Jury." The kneeling gentleman was no other than the late Babu Shishir Kumar Ghosh, the foremost patriot of his generation. In 1884 the Bengal Government, as we have seen, proposed the extension of the system, and in the year following, the Indian National Congress held its first meeting in Bombay. We find that almost from the very foundation of that great and august body, resolutions were passed from year to year praying for the extension of the system to other districts and for greater finality for the verdicts of jurors.

Vide Resolution No. 8 of 1886.
" No. 4 of 1888.
" No. 3(*b*) of 1889.
" No. 2(*b*) of 1890.
" No. 7(*b*) of 1891.

Thus we find the glorious and edifying spectacle of the Government and the people, the officials and non-officials standing on a common platform and advocating the extension of the Jury system, for which, my Lord, I am now claiming Your Excellency's favourable and sympathetic consideration. Verily this was a sight for the gods to see and enjoy. But the gods, like men, have their reverses and disappointments and they were not allowed to enjoy this sight for any length of time. For, on the 20th October, 1892, Sir Charles Elliott, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, issued a Notification, not for

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.*)

extension but for *limitation* of the system, withdrawing the right of Trial by Jury in the majority of serious offences including murder and rioting.

The people asked for bread but instead stones were flung at them. This Notification came to the people like a bolt from the blue and evoked in the country a unanimous outburst of indignant protest which even the author of the Notification felt unable to disregard. On the 30th December, 1892, the Indian National Congress at Allahabad passed a resolution demanding not only the withdrawal of the Jury Notification but also the extension of the system. The following two days were holidays and on the very next office day, *viz.*, 2nd January, 1893, the Lieutenant-Governor addressed an important despatch to the Government of India stating that he desired to reconsider the question and suggested the appointment of a Commission to consider the matter. The above-mentioned Resolution of the Indian National Congress was moved by the late Babu Guru Prosad Sen and seconded by Rai Baikunta Nath Sen Bahadur. The speeches of these two level-headed and sagacious leaders proved conclusively, not by declamation and denunciation, but by 'a careful examination of the crime statistics for a number of years taken from the Administration Reports' that *the Jury system worked much better than the non-jury or the Assessor system.* The very fact that even the author of the Notification with all the natural bias for it was induced to reconsider the matter and to institute forthwith a careful and satisfactory inquiry is proof positive of the fact, if any proof is needed, that the Indian National Congress made out a very strong case in favour of the Jury system. There is therefore no reason to brush aside the Resolution of Babu Guru Prosad Sen as an expression merely of non-official opinion. In fact, I venture to place this Resolution on the same footing with the recommendations of Sir Cecil Beadon and Sir Rivers Thompson for extension of the Jury system and claim no less authority and weight for the former than must unquestionably be conceded by all to the latter.

My Lord, out of evil cometh good. The Jury Notification led to the appointment of the Jury Commission, who, after a most careful and critical examination of the working of the system from 1862 to 1892, and, who, after examining the whole literature on the subject including all official and judicial reports, arrived at the following important conclusions :—

"After the fullest consideration of the very abundant materials before us we cannot come to the conclusion that the Jury system in its present shape has proved a failure in Bengal. Our general conclusion is the same as that arrived at by the Local Government in 1884, that system has worked fairly well in the more advanced districts to which it has been applied." "And dealing more specifically with the Notification of Sir Charles Elliott, the Commission recorded the following opinion :— * * * * we have come to the unanimous conclusion that the classification of offences triable by jury as it stood before the 20th October, 1892, should be reverted to."

And who were the members of this Commission? The President was no other than Mr. Prinsep who was Judge of the Calcutta High Court for a very long time. Among the members were Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter, another illustrious Judge, 'who officiated as Chief Justice of Bengal,' and Sir Griffith Evans, Advocate-General of Bengal, 'who enjoyed such unstinted confidence of the Government that they appointed him member of the Supreme Legislative Council for about a quarter of a century.'

The Commission submitted their report on the 24th March, 1893. And only three days after, *i.e.*, on the 27th March, the people hailed with delight the publication by the Bengal Government of a Notification by which the Jury Notification of the 20th October was cancelled.

All that happened during the time of Sir Charles Elliott afforded, therefore, the clearest vindication of the Jury system in Bengal. He no doubt condemned the system in the first instance, but through the mysterious dispensation of Providence he eventually proved himself to be the most genuine and ardent supporter of the institution.

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta.*)

So I feel justified in contending that Sir Charles Elliott like Sir Cecil Beadon and Sir Rivers Thompson was an advocate of the Jury system in Bengal.

But there is a strange fatality which has always attended this ill-fated institution in Bengal. For, in spite of the fiery ordeal it passed through in 1892 and 1893, all that was done was merely the maintenance of the *status quo*. The question of extension of the system to other districts was not at all referred to the Commission 'who felt that they were not authorised to travel beyond the matters expressly referred to them, although they received representations on the subject from many non-jury districts.'

The result was that, in spite of the vindication of the Jury system by such competent expert opinion, no step was taken in 1893 for the extension of the same. But the people were not satisfied with merely regaining lost ground. They were keen for extension. Accordingly we find the Indian National Congress reopening the question of the extension of the Jury system in 1894 and passing a resolution in that behalf year after year. I shall only quote the text of one typical resolution, *viz.*, the resolution which was passed by the twelfth Congress in 1896. "That this Congress having regard to the opinion of the Jury Commission as to the success of the system of Trial by Jury, and to the fact that with the progress of education a sufficient number of educated persons is available in all parts of the country, and concurring with previous Congresses, is of opinion that Trial by Jury should be extended to districts and offences to which the system at present does not apply and that the verdicts should be final." The Government was apparently satisfied with the reasonableness of the demand and made a slight response. On the 19th April, 1897, the Bengal Government published a Notification by which the system of Trial by Jury was extended to the districts of Chittagong, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Jessore with respect to certain offences. My Lord, while certainly thankful to the Government for this concession, my countrymen looked upon it only as a small instalment of a large debt still due to them. The extension of the system in 1897, slight as it is, is valuable to us as a distinct recognition once more by the Government that the system has been nothing but a success in the seven districts in which it had been under trial for a period of thirty-five years.

Since then education has made phenomenal progress all over Bengal, and if education is any test of fitness for this valued right, then it cannot possibly be gainsaid that every district of Bengal has fully established its claim to the Jury system.

Let us now for one moment turn to facts and figures. Let us compare the number of schools, colleges, graduates and under-graduates in 1862, 1867, 1884, 1893, 1897 and 1916. The position is so very clear and so absolutely uncontroversial that I should not feel justified in trespassing upon Your Excellency's time to labour this point by an examination of the statistics on the subject. I shall content myself with summing up the position very broadly by stating that education in the most backward district to-day in 1916 compares very favourably with education in the most advanced district in 1862. There can be no denying the fact that if there was any one district in Bengal which was fit for the Jury system in 1862, then judged by the test of education there is no district now in Bengal which can reasonably be considered unfit for the same. If competent jurors were available in Nadia in 1862—we have quoted the opinion of the Judge of Nadia that they were available—can it be said with any semblance of reason that after the lapse of *over half a century* there will not be found a sufficiently large number of educated men in Tippera or Bakarganj, in Faridpur or Midnapore to draw jurors from? Is there any conceivable reason why Tippera and Faridpur should be considered unfit for jury trial in 1916 when Burdwan and Hooghly were found qualified in 1862? The system was introduced in all the districts of Assam with respect to all offences triable by courts of session as early as 1862. Can it be seriously contended that the 16 Bengal districts on behalf of which I am moving this resolution are more backward in 1916 than

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.*)

the even now benighted Assam districts were in 1862? My Lord, I am not demanding more for the Bengal districts than the Assam districts have, as a matter of fact, already enjoyed for the last fifty-four years.

There is one very important fact which I should have mentioned before. I have cited many authorities, but I have not yet cited the authority of the very authors of the Jury system in British India. The system, as I have said, was introduced by the Criminal Procedure Code of 1861. The history of that legislation, so far as the question now before us is concerned, is both interesting and instructive. The Indian Law Commissioners 'appointed under the Indian Act of 1853' upon whose report the Code of Criminal Procedure was introduced in the Imperial Legislative Council in 1859 recommended the present double system of jury and assessor. The Code, as prepared by the Commissioners, was laid before the Legislative Council and referred to a Select Committee. Now, my Lord, I beg leave to call your special attention to the report of the Select Committee. They did not accept the double system and struck out altogether the provision respecting assessors and provided for the introduction of a general system of Trial by Jury. We arrive at the next stage, my Lord, when the report of the Select Committee was presented before the Council who approved and adopted the uniform system recommended by the Select Committee. In other words the Bill as approved by the Imperial Council provided for the introduction of the Jury system *in all districts.*

We now come to the last and final stage when the Bill was submitted for approval to the Secretary of State for India in Council, who, however, was of opinion that the course recommended by the Law Commissioners should be followed, that trial in the Session Courts should be generally conducted with the aid of assessors, and that Trial by Jury being settled by law in regard to certain classes it should be left to the Government to extend it to localities as it may deem fit. The Imperial Council accordingly modified their own conclusions and the present double syetem was brought into existence. It will thus appear that, but for the interference of the Home Government, the Jury system would have been introduced throughout the length and breadth of the Province as early as 1862. My Lord, I am not asking for more than the Supreme Council very graciously, but none the less solemnly, proposed to give us more than half-a-century before. I use the word "graciously" advisedly because the legislation proposed by them was not the result of any agitation or public opinion but proceeded from themselves.

The principal argument against the extension of the Jury system is that the jurors sometimes return wrong verdicts. The Jury system, after all, is a human institution and jurors are, after all, men. Like all other human institutions the Jury system is also bound to have its ordinary share of imperfections. Like all other men the jurors are also liable to err. It is therefore only natural and inevitable that the verdicts of the jurors in some cases will be erroneous. Is this, however, a ground for condemning the system? Are there any tribunals of any description in any country which are absolutely free from wrong verdicts? Are not the decisions of the Sessions Judges in the non-jury districts reversed by the High Court in an appreciably large number of cases? Are not even capital sentences in non-jury districts set aside by the High Court and replaced by order of acquittal? Are not the decisions of the High Courts not infrequently set aside by their Lordships of the Judicial Committee? Is that a ground for the abolition or condemnation of the Sessions Courts or High Courts? Has not the elaborate machinery of our law courts 'beginning from the courts of the Deputy Magistrates and Munsiffs with provisions for appeals in the court of the District Magistrates and District and Sessions Judges and for second appeal and revision and reference in the High Courts with the Privy Council in England as the highest tribunal for counteracting and undoing all the blunders committed by the courts of the various grades in India, has not this elaborate machinery'

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.*)

for its basis the fundamental truth that the verdicts of all courts and all tribunals must inevitably be wrong in some cases? We have no right to claim or expect utopian perfection for the Jury system. We ought to judge it by that ordinary standard by which we ordinarily judge all other human institutions. No institution is or can be ideally perfect.

The complaint against the jurors comes chiefly from the police. The police complain because the jurors cannot and do not always see eye to eye with the police. They complain because the jurors sometimes fail to give credence to the evidence that is brought up by the police in Sessions Courts and let off innocent persons who are not infrequently sent up by the police. On this rather ticklish and delicate question, my Lord, I shall not hazard any opinion of my own, but with Your Excellency's permission I shall quote the authority of no less a personage than Sir Rivers Thompson who observed that the jurymen were more scrupulous in accepting police evidence than the Judges were and that it was quite right that they should be so scrupulous. There is one fact which lends the utmost weight to the observation of Sir Rivers Thompson. Obviously he did not consider this "scrupulousness" on the part of the jurors to be a discredit or a demerit, for, in spite of this opinion, he was, as a matter of fact, one of the greatest advocates of this institution and he was anxious for gradual extension of the same. I may be permitted, however, to observe that over-scrupulousness on the part of the jury is a failing which leans on virtue's side, if it is a failing at all. One of the fundamental principles of jurisprudence is that it is better to let off ninety-nine guilty men than to send one innocent man to jail. This over-scrupulousness is not the characteristic of the Bengalee jurors alone. That is the distinguishing feature of jurors in England also. Mr. John Bright, speaking of the jurors in England, observed that the jury *naturally* were over-scrupulous in weighing evidence in cases where punishment might be death. But I shall cite still another high authority and shall quote the following passage from the report of the Jury Commission:

"Some of the verdicts alleged to be erroneous may be fairly attributable to distrust of police evidence and of the manner in which cases are got up by the police. This distrust has not been without reason in the past, but steps have been recently taken to improve the police generally, and in particular investigation and preparation of cases shall be entrusted to a higher and more trustworthy class of officers. With these improvements the distrust may be expected to gradually disappear." Whether the hope of improvements of the police and their methods has been justified by the event may or may not be a matter of controversy, and whether the distrust of the police evidence has since disappeared or is still one of the disadvantages the jurors labour under in coming to a right decision—quite apart from these considerations, we have at all events here a most significant and unequivocal pronouncement of most competent Judges that the alleged erroneous verdicts are not always erroneous in point of fact that it is the unreliable police evidence which is the real cause for failure of prosecution and that if there is anything wrong in those cases, it is not in the verdict of the jury but in the very inception of the case—in the placing of a wrong man upon trial and in the attempt to obtain conviction by evidence which is not acceptable to the jury. The opinion of the Jury Commission comes to this, that the police in the first instance try to obtain conviction by misleading the jury by unreliable evidence and that when the jury are intelligent enough to see through their tactics they raise the stereotyped cry—"The verdict is wrong, the verdict is perverse."

The reports of the Judicial Officers as to the success of the system in Bengal, although not uniform, are, on the whole, decidedly favourable. Some of them reported strongly in favour of it, others reported against it. But with respect to the latter, the Jury Commission observed that many of the Judicial Officers who reported against the system based much of their opposition to it on grounds not special to Bengal but equally applicable to England.

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.*)

The Judges either agree or disagree with the verdict of the jury. If they agree, then certainly the verdict is not erroneous—at all events it is not erroneous in their estimate. It is only when they disagree that the Judges call the verdict of the jurors to be erroneous. Now the verdict of the jury cannot with confidence be said to be erroneous merely because the Judge differs from the same. There is absolutely no justification for the assumption that in all cases of difference of opinion the Judge is right and the jury wrong. On the contrary, the jury-men being drawn from the people themselves are better able to decide questions of fact than the Judges who are more or less unfamiliar with the customs, manners, and languages of the accused and the witnesses. It is universally admitted that jurors are more often right in the facts than the Judges. That is the dispassionate judgment even of the Judges themselves all over India. I shall quote the testimony of three Judges from three Presidencies. Mr. Woogan, District Judge of Cuttack, observed so far back as 1881 :—"I have found the assessors as a rule take an intelligent interest in the proceedings * * * and although I think them in some cases prone to acquit, I have frequently found where I have over-ruled, that their doubts were endorsed by the High Court on appeal." Mr. Benson, a Judge of the Madras Presidency, remarked in 1890, "Jurors are more often right on the facts than Judges in their self-sufficiency give them credit for." In the same year Sir Charles Farran, Chief Justice of Bombay, said : * * "The verdict of the jurors, by reason of the local knowledge they possess and their more perfect acquaintance with the habits, customs and modes of thought of the accused and of the witnesses examined before them is more likely to be correct than the decision of a Judge, though the latter approaches the considerations of the case with a more trained intelligence and a more logical mind, but with less accurate preception of native life and native thoughts." That is also the verdict of the Jury Commission who observed that compared with the Sessions Judges, a local jury should be better able to draw inference of fact and to discriminate between the truth and falsehood of conflicting oral evidence given in their language. One of the greatest disadvantages of a Sessions trial in this country is that many of our European Judges do not know the language of the accused and the witnesses and some of them do not care to know it. This is simply disastrous for the ends of justice.

As a matter of fact there are numerous cases in which the High Court on a full consideration of the evidence upheld the verdict of the jury and rejected that of the Judge.

It should be borne in mind that the success of the jury system depends to some extent upon the efficiency of the Judges. In a jury trial, the Judge must play the rôle of a friend, philosopher and guide to the jurors. In their Report on the Criminal Administration of Bengal for the year 1865, the High Court went so far as to remark that the success of the system depended not so much upon the proper selection of persons to form the jury list as upon the ability and care with which the presiding Judge performed the duty of explaining the case to the jurors, and they therefore strongly urged the importance of invariably selecting the most experienced and efficient officers at the disposal of the Government to serve as Judges in the jury districts. Sir Cecil Beadon recorded precisely the same opinion in 1867. In the same year the India Government refused to adopt Sir Cecil's recommendation of extension of jury trial to other districts not because competent jurors were not available but because Judges of assured capacity of the requisite number were not then available. In this connection permit me, my Lord, to quote the following passage from the report of the Jury Commission :

"It must be borne in mind that some of the erroneous verdicts are probably due to want of practice on the part of the Judges in the very difficult art of charging a jury. A good and clear charge or an inefficient one frequently makes all the difference in a verdict. The careful appointment of only the best and most experienced Judges to jury districts

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.*)

must mitigate this danger." So the High Court, the Local Government and the Supreme Government all unanimously attribute some of the erroneous verdicts of the jurors in Bengal to the inefficiency of the Judges. It is somewhat interesting therefore to find some of the Judges trying to shift the burden of wrong verdicts from their own shoulders to those of the jurors.

But apart from these *à priori* considerations, my contention is that the statistics do not support the charge of "wrong verdict" The statistics furnished by Government reports were examined at length by the Jury Commission from this standpoint. The following extract from their report is a sufficient refutation of this baseless charge :

"The opinions before us shew that experienced officers have frequently complained of the prevalence of wrong verdicts, which they have attributed to various innate defects in the jurors. The statistics, on the other hand, do not shew that there has been any larger number of cases than might have been reasonably expected, and certainly do not indicate any breakdown of the system. We think that considerable weight should be given to the opinion of competent observers. Still, statistics are of great importance as indicating the number of trials, the number of cases in which the Judge has disagreed with the jury, the number of cases referred and the result of references ; and they form a sound basis for judging how far the matters complained of have operated so largely as to seriously interfere with the administration of justice. Opinions of this character have been expressed from time to time since 1862, but they have never been accepted as sufficient material for the condemnation of the system. There is reason to think that the variance between the adverse opinions and the actual result shewn by the statistics can be explained by the bias caused by the occurrence of some case, in which the unexpected results have shocked these officers, who are thus too easily led to believe in the prevalence of influence which may have caused a failure of justice in an individual case. Having formed this strong opinion and probably reported it to their superior officers, and having satisfied themselves of the existence of certain tendencies or prejudices calculated to interfere with the correctness of verdicts, and having seen some instances of their operation, they have too readily assumed that these tendencies and prejudices were overwhelming and generally operative to the subversion of justice, without considering how far education or a sense of responsibility might counteract them and might have led to the majority of the verdicts being such as could not have been given if the tendencies and prejudices in question had swayed the decision of the jury. Assuming that such tendencies and prejudices on the part of the jurors do exist, the statistics show that they do not operate to anything like the extent which might be expected from the perusals of many of the reports made to Government." The statistics of 11 years prior to 1893 were very carefully examined by Babu Guru Prasad Sen from whose speech I quote the following illuminating passage :—

"In my humble opinion, no amount of platitudes, or denunciation, but a careful examination of figures comprising the crime statistics for a number of years can alone help us in coming to a right conclusion regarding the matter. We have jury trials and non-jury trials in Sessions courts under the Government of Bengal, and the result of trials with jury as compared with the result of Sessions trials without a jury, will show the merit of each. Such a statement I now hold in my hand. It is a comparative statement of the above kind from 1877 to 1891 compiled from the reports of the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Lower Provinces. It would be tedious to read to you all the figures, even if our 10 minutes rule will allow. I shall crave your permission to take it as read, and I shall hand over a copy to our Secretary for record as a part of this address. I shall, however, read to you the summary of the result.

From 1877 to 1891, barring the years 1879, 1880, 1881 and 1882 for which certain figures are not available, the number of trials with jury was

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Datta.*)

3,567; the number of verdicts agreed to by the Sessions Judges was 632; the number of references disposed of, under section 307, Criminal Procedure Code, was 238; verdicts approved by the High Court were 90; verdicts set aside by the High Court were 148. The percentage, therefore, of verdicts not agreed to by the Sessions Judges to the whole number of verdicts during these years, was 16·9. The percentage of verdicts actually set aside to the total number of verdicts, was 3·68. While, if all cases in which the Sessions Judge disagreed from the verdict of the jury had been referred by them under section 307, Criminal Procedure Code, to the High Court, and verdicts set aside in the same proportion as in cases referred, the percentage of verdicts which would have been set aside, would be 11·8.

On the other hand, we find that during the same period the total number of non-jury trials, *i.e.*, trials with Assessors, was 12,141. The number of appeals disposed of by the High Court from the decisions of the Sessions Judges was 8,205; the number of cases in which there were no appeals, was 3,936; of the appeals disposed of 6,632 were affirmed, and the number reversed, modified and sent back, was 1,603. The percentage of judgment of Sessions Judges affirmed to the total number of appeals was 81·6 and the percentage of judgments reversed, modified and sent back, was 19·4. The percentage of judgments affirmed or not disturbed to the total number of trials was 86·7, while the percentage of judgments that would have to be corrected by the High Court, if there had been appeals in all cases to the total number of trials, would be 13·3.

It would perhaps, be conceded that the cases not referred were such that if they were before the High Court there would be less chance of their being set aside. Under the present Code (sec. 307, Cr. P. C.) wrong verdicts may be set aside in every instance; it is not, therefore, an irremediable wrong. Again, there are doubtless cases in which no appeal against the sentences of the Sessions Judge is preferred, because the prisoner has no money or friends to take up his case before the High Court; and if appeals had been preferred in these cases the sentence would not have been affirmed; while, therefore, the mode in which the percentage has been worked out in column 9 of the statement A, I have in hand, is unfavourable to the jury, the mode by which the percentage in column 7 of the statement B, also in hand, has been worked out, is very favourable to the Sessions Judge, and they have been worked out in this way to remove all hesitation in adopting them for the purpose of comparison.

Now comparing these figures, we find that while the actual percentage of verdicts of juries set aside during these years has been only 3·68, the actual percentage of judgments of Sessions Judges reversed by the High Court in appeal is 19·4. While, if all disagreed verdicts had been referred to by the Sessions Judges to the High Court, under section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and these verdicts set aside in the same ratio as those referred, the percentage of verdicts set aside would have been only 11·8, but the percentage of judgments of the Sessions Judges that would have to be corrected by the High Court, to the total number of trials, treating cases not appealed against as affirmed, would be 13·3.

These figures, I hold, conclusively prove that the jury system has worked much better than the non-jury or the assessor system. Opinions from whatever source they may come, would be of no weight if not based on facts, and isolated facts can scarcely furnish a correct basis for generalization."

An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theories and opinions. We must therefore bow down to the conclusions which have been irresistibly drawn from the statistics not of a doubtful character but about which the Government and the people are absolutely certain. The charge of wrong verdicts brought against the jurors of Bengal has therefore no foundation in fact. It is a grand fiction—and a great libel upon the jurors who do a public duty at considerable personal sacrifice. It is too late in the day now to reiterate this

exploded heresy and worn-out prejudice. I feel persuaded, my Lord, that this argument will not be urged against my resolution.

But conceding for argument's sake that the verdicts of jurors are wrong in an appreciable number of cases, it really passes my comprehension how the alleged wrong verdicts can necessarily lead to a failure of justice any more than the wrong verdict of a Munsiff, or Subordinate Judge, or District Judge or a High Court in a civil suit or the wrong verdict of the Deputy Magistrate, District Magistrate or Sessions Judge in a criminal case can. The law as it stands now has made ample provision for preventing any failure of justice. Whenever the Judge disagrees with the verdict of the jurors, and is of opinion that the verdict will lead to failure of justice, section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code empowers him to submit the case to the High Court, which may exercise any of the powers which it may exercise on an appeal. There is a good deal of controversy whether the verdict of jurors should be final or not. But certainly under the existing law this apprehension of failure or miscarriage of justice is absolutely unfounded.

My Lord, I am anxious to call Your Excellency's attention to another aspect of the matter. The safeguard now provided by section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code against any miscarriage of justice from erroneous verdicts were not in existence when Sir Cecil Beadon and Sir Rivers Thompson proposed to extend the system. The Supreme Council proposed to introduce the system in all the districts with final powers to the jurors. If the system could be extended under the old law without the safeguard, how much more safely can it be extended now under the existing law with this additional safeguard which has placed the jury and the Judges in the non-jury districts practically in the same position, so far as the powers of the High Court for revision and correction of wrong verdicts are concerned, the intervention of the High Court being invoked by the Judge in one case and by the aggrieved party in the other.

It has been declared by eminent jurists that if Trial by Jury is looked at from the political and moral point of view, everything is to be said in its favour and nothing can be said aginst it. This doctrine of universal application applies with special force to India in the present political condition of the country. Looked at from this standpoint the following aspects of the question cannot fail to strike the most unimaginative and superficial student of the present day politics.

(*a*) In the administration of justice the Jury system may be looked upon as a measure of self-government. So far back as 1872, Sir George Campbell, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, although he was rather hostile to the Jury system in India, remarked in the course of a debate in the Supreme Council that the system had a great effect on the political education of the people in-as-much as they were induced to take part in self-government and in the administration of justice.

(*b*) The system is also calculated to promote co-operation between the people and the judiciary and will provide a common platform where the leading and educated men of the whole district can meet the Judges. Sir Charles Elliott was of opinion that the Jury system was beneficial on political grounds as a means of identifying the people of the country with the administration of justice.

(*c*) Sir J. F. Stephen, in his History of the Criminal Law of England, observed :—

"Though the Judges are, and are known to be, independent of the Executive Government, it is naturally felt that their sympathies are likely to be on the side of authority. The public at large feel more sympathy with jury men than they do with Judges, and accept their verdicts with much less hesitation and distrust than they would feel towards judgments, however ably written or expressed." If this is true of England, how much more is this

(*Babu Surendra Nath Ray.*)

true about India where the Judges are not independent of the Executive Government. Accordingly, the Jury Commission said: "The odium of what may appear harsh punishments is shifted in great part from the Government, and the dread, however unfounded it may be, of the all-pervading influence of the Government affecting the judgment is removed." My Lord, the importance of this consideration from the standpoint of the Government cannot be too much emphasised. In the peculiar circumstances of India, it is not only necessary that justice should be administered but it is equally necessary that the people should feel and be satisfied that it is being properly administered. This satisfaction of the people is an important asset for the Government. The Jury Commission were so emphatic in their opinion on this point that they held that this advantage is sufficient to compensate for a certain number of cases in which criminals may escape conviction or may be convicted of lesser crimes than the evidence might warrant. Even a superficial consideration should convince the Judges that the jury not only help them in their judicial task but also relieve them of great responsibility. They should therefore welcome the extension of the system for their own sake.

In conclusion I beg leave to submit that the resolution which stands in my name is a resolution which is identical with the resolutions of the Bengal Government on several previous occasions on the one hand and with the resolutions of the Indian National Congress on the other. I believe, my Lord, and I do so honestly, that the proposed extension will operate as much for the benefit of the Government as for the people. A dispassionate consideration will shew that this is at all events a matter in which there is absolutely no manner of conflict between the Government and the people. I hope and trust that the resolution will be acceptable to all parties concerned. I appeal to the non-official members of this Council for supporting the resolution in the name of the Indian National Congress who have been fighting in this behalf ever since 1885. I count upon the ungrudging and whole-hearted support of the European members on the simple ground that they are as keen about the right of Trial by Jury as any other people on the face of the earth. They themselves fought out their own salvation in this matter and I feel sure that they will have nothing but sympathy for us in our efforts for obtaining the same. And, lastly, my Lord, I appeal to Your Excellency for acceptance of the resolution in the name of Sir Cecil Beadon, Sir Rivers Thompson and many other high-officials who from time to time advocated the extension of the system. The system is in force in all the districts of Madras, Your Excellency's first Presidency in India, and my earnest prayer is that Your Excellency will place Bengal on that footing on which Your Excellency found Madras in this respect. In the words of the kneeling gentleman before Lord Ripon I say "My Lord, concede to us the rights of Trial by Jury." May the termination of Your Excellency's rule be signalised by the extension of the Jury system as contemplated by this Resolution.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY :—

"My Lord,—On the 1st December, 1913, I asked the following question in your Lordship's Council :

'In view of the advance in education during the last 20 years, have the Government of Bengal considered the desirability of introducing the Trial by Jury in the non-jury districts?'

The answer was :

'Within the last 20 years the Government of Bengal have considered the desirability of introducing Trial by Jury into the non-jury districts. In 1897 the system of Trial by Jury was extended to the districts of Chittagong, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Jessore; and in 1905 to the district of Khulna.'

This question was asked by me as a preliminary to the moving of the identical Resolution which my Hon'ble friend has moved just now. When,

(*Babu Surendra Nath Ray.*)

however, I studied the question thoroughly I asked myself have we got the real thing, or is it the mere shadow of the substance, and if the right of Trial by Jury is worth extension to other districts. Whatever my young and enthusiastic friends may think I am sorry to admit that the Criminal Procedure Code of 1898 has made the verdict of a jury and that of an assessor almost identical, in fact, it has made the verdict of a jury worse, for there is no appeal to the High Court against the verdict of the jury when it is concurred in by the Judge on questions of fact except on the ground of misdirection to the jury. The jury system is not what the Law Commissioners under the Indian Act of 1853 recommended, *viz.*, that in jury trials, the verdict of the jury was to be binding on the Court. It is not what it was by the Code of 1861, *viz.*, that the verdict of the jury was to be final when the verdict was either unanimous or that of a substantial majority. The law was amended by the Code of 1872 under the guidance of Mr. Stephen (Sir FitzJames Stephen) who was never known to have been a man of liberal principles so far at least as India was concerned. He made a substantial alteration in the law regarding the verdict of the jury. In presenting the report of the Select Committee on the Code of Criminal Procedure he said : 'I am aware that some of my honourable colleagues think that we have changed the spirit of the whole system so much by these alterations, that it would have been better to sweep it away altogether. * * * * In giving the Judge power to refer to the High Court cases in which he differs from the jury, we have no doubt made a considerable alteration upon English precedents.'

According to Mr. Justice Prinsep the course of legislation and the terms in which the law is now embodied in section 307 of the Code shows that it was intended to prevent the finality of a verdict of a jury given to it by the Code of 1861 to enable the Sessions Judge to interpose by refusing to record and act upon that verdict, if he thought that it would cause a failure of justice ; and in such a case to refer the proceedings to the High Court, and to require the High Court to deal with the entire case, even on its merits on matters of fact, after giving due weight to the opinions of the Sessions Judge and jury. In a Trial by Jury it was the jury who were responsible for the finding on the facts, and nothing short of perversity or very clearly demonstrable error was held by most Judges to justify any expression of disagreement. It is no doubt a valued right, but the way in which the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court have of late begun to interfere with the verdict of the jury in cases where there has been verdict of 'not guilty' that we are bound to think that the real Trial by Jury is at an end.

I have pointed out how the verdict of the jury or at least the verdict of a substantial majority which at first had a finality is now not worth much in cases where the trying Judge disagrees with it, for he has absolute power to refer the case to the High Court. And we find as a result of references to the High Court, during the years 1912-13, out of 22 references decided during the year the verdict of the jury was accepted in 7 cases only, *i.e.*, in only 31·8 per cent. of the cases. In 1913-14, out of 36 references disposed of, the verdict of the jury was upheld in 9 cases only or in 25 per cent. of the cases. In 1914-15 out of 26 references disposed of, the verdict of the jury was accepted in 9 cases, or in 26·9 per cent. of the cases, while during the last two weeks of August last, out of 7 references to the High Court in 6 the verdict of the jury was not accepted. Of course we must admit that this is not the normal state of things. It varies according to the inclinations of individual Judges. As Trial by Jury has been reduced to this skeleton form, we feel some difficulty in giving our whole-hearted support to the Resolution. Trial by Jury is not a thing unknown to the Indians. Settlement of disputes even in civil matters was always decided in the ancient days in India by the *Punchayet*.

My Lord, we all know the history of the last change in the law as to reference to the High Court, I mean the change in the Code of 1898. When

(*Babu Surendra Nath Ray.*)

in 1892, by a Notification it was notified in the *Calcutta Gazette* that certain offences which had hitherto been tried with the aid of jurors would not be so tried in eight of the districts of Bengal, the whole Bengal public was taken by surprise. There was a public meeting in the Town Hall of Calcutta in which both Indians and Europeans joined. The result was that Government appointed a Commission and they recommended the amendment of section 307 of the Code.

I do not know whether my friend the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Portfolio whose able conduct of the what is known as the Shambazar riot case set free a large number of alleged offenders is not responsible for the amendment of the above section. This is what I find in the report of the Jury Commission :—

"Sir Charles Elliott now desires me to bring to the notice of the Government of India the case of the third batch of prisoners tried in the 24-Parganas for rioting near Shambazar in the suburbs of Calcutta as a conspicuous instance of an important trial before a jury, in which justice has been thwarted and offenders have escaped punishment because they were acquitted by the jury, and in which the Judge (Mr. Rampini), although he was evidently satisfied of the guilt of the great majority of the accused, did not refer the case to the High Court... .....Subsequently to the trial some confidential communications have taken place between Mr. Rampini and this Government, and he has explained that he was actuated by the belief that the verdict of the jury being unanimous, it was useless to hope that the High Court would reverse it."

I am bound to admit that there are instances in which the verdict of the jury had been anything but satisfactory. But that is because proper persons are not appointed as jurors. Formerly Pleaders in the mufassal also used to be appointed as jurors, but Government have ceased to appoint them because they were found to be too independent and could thoroughly sift the evidence. Even Sir Charles Elliott in his letter to the Government of India dated the 22nd June 1891 had to write as follows :—"The Lieutenant-Governor conceives that it is possible that suitable men have not been selected for jurors in many districts; but His Honour thinks that this is due to the failure of the Judges and of the other officers associated with them under section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code, to take care that only qualified persons are entered in the jury lists prepared by them, and he proposed to impress strongly on all Judges in jury districts that under the law they are primarily responsible in this matter." For some years the nomination and selection of jurors in some districts were in the hands of the Police and the result was that properly qualified men were not appointed as jurors. Under the circumstances I think Government is partly responsible for improper verdicts.

There is another defect in the present system of trial by jury and it is this—the charge to the jury as given at the time of the trial and that embodied in the judgment are sometimes very dissimilar, and this is accountable to a very large extent for failure of justice in many instances—at least in getting the reference cases properly laid before the High Court Judges. This was pointed out by Sir Ramesh Chandra Mitter who was also a member of the Jury Commission. He said : "As a matter of practice I am informed that Sessions Judges generally record from memory or their own notes the substance of the charge delivered orally, after the verdict has been taken. This course is open to many obvious objections and is likely to lead to unsatisfactory results. When an appeal has to be preferred to the High Court in a jury case, the appellant, in appealing against an alleged misdirection of the Judge, is sometimes forced to complain of the Judge's charge, not as it was probably laid before the jury, but as it has been recorded by the Judge

(*Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar.*)

after the verdict has been delivered. I am of opinion that the record should contain a strictly accurate report of the charge as delivered by the Judge to the Jury." And Sir Ramesh Chandra Mitter suggested that it should be made obligatory upon the Judge to write out his summing up before he proceeds to charge the jury or that a Bench Clerk should be attached to each Sessions Court whose duty it should be to take down in shorthand the Judge's charge as delivered, and whose transcript of the charge, when signed by the presiding Judge, should form part of the record. This recommendation has not been carried out. Hence miscarriages of justice occur in some cases. These are the reasons why the jury system has not been a real and effective part of the machinery for the administration of criminal justice.

This is no doubt the gloomy side of the picture. But there is also a bright side of it and I shall quote certain figures to show how it has proved to be a safety to the liberty of the subject in a large number of cases. From the Administrarion Reports of the Government of Bengal we find the following important facts: In the year 1912-13, 1,038 persons were tried by Sessions Judges with the aid of jury. In the cases of 881 persons the verdict of the jury was approved of by the Judge, in the cases of 154 persons the verdict was disapproved of by the Judge, but as a matter of fact he disagreed and referred only the cases of 71 persons to the High Court under section 307, Criminal Procedure Code. In the year 1913-14, 1,099 persons were so tried. The Sessions Judge approved of the verdict in the cases of 898 persons, disapproved in the cases of 201 persons, but he disagreed and referred the cases of 71 persons to the High Court. In the year 1914-15, cases of 1,168 persons were so tried. The Sessions Judge approved of the verdict in 973 cases, disapproved of it in the cases of 195 persons but disagreed and referred the cases to the High Court in regard to 71 persons only. It will appear from the above figures that the Judge, though he disapproved of the verdict in several cases, yet he thought it proper to actually disagree with it in less than half the number.

We, however, appeal to Government to select better class of men to act as jurors, and, if possible, to move the Government of India to change the law to what it at present is in Sessions cases tried in the Original Side of the High Court. The two principal defects, viz., (1) that good independent men are not empanelled, (2) that their finding is practically subject to the approval of the trying Judge, virtually vitiate the principle of trial by jury whose verdict should always as judges of fact be upheld unless such verdict be grossly perverse and contrary to natural justice.

I am of opinion that trial by jury even with its faults affords protection to the subject and should therefore be extended to all the districts of Bengal as education has made rapid progress throughout the Presidency. I am informed that the system of trial of jury is in force even in such of the backward districts of Assam as the Garo Hills and the North Eastern Frontier.

There is one other thing, my Lord, which I would like to mention. I am not sure whether in a time like this a Resolution such as this should have been moved. But we are bound to support it. I hope the Government will take the opinion of the High Court whether the system of trial by jury should not be extended to all districts of Bengal."

The Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar said :—

"My Lord, It is Seeley's phrase, if I remember right, that the British Empire was founded in fits of absent-mindedness. Whether this be strictly correct or not as regards the other parts of the Empire, it seems to be too true as regards India. For here there has hardly been in any matter of political progress an unbroken continuity of policy consistently pursued for more than two successive administrations at a time and an inflexible determination to carry any reform through and through in an uninterrupted course for its fullest development. My Lord, the system of trial by Jury as

(*Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar.*)

tried in this country furnishes a striking illustration of Seeley's dictum as it is one of those half-hearted measures which have suffered rather severely from the effects of this indecision and fit of absent-mindedness. Introduced in 1862 it had of course a small beginning being extended to seven districts only; but its further expansion was simultaneously checked by a curious invention of Sir James Stephen known as the system of trial with the aid of assessors which was transparently a mock substitute for trial by Jury. Then my Lord, full 30 years passed away as in a trance of this absent-mindedness during which no notice was taken of it either one way or the other, when with the growing clamour of the people for an extension of the system there followed a rude awakening, and it was then suddenly discovered that the small measure of reform tried only in a few districts had not proved a success because, as it was officially stated, it let to the "escape of criminals," as if in the remaining 37 districts the administration was perfectly satisfactory and the mock substitute had not resulted in the conviction of any innocents. Then came the Jury Notification of 1892 for the practical abolition of trial by Jury, which naturally evoked an outburst of indignant protest throughout the province. A commission was appointed, the retrograde Notification was withdrawn and in another fit of generous impulse a further extension of the system was directed. But again the same nervousness and half-heartedness supervened and an over-cautious Government administered another homœopathic dose of the reform which limited the extension to five more districts only. It did not proceed upon any serious inquiry or on even a formal examination of the actual condition of the different districts; but as the bitter pill had to be swallowed a haphazard selection was made based upon equally haphazard reports of some Sessions Judges who were guided mainly by their personal likes and dislikes of the system. My Lord, the humble individual who is now addressing Your Excellency had the honour to appear for one of the unfortunate districts whose claims had been unjustly overlooked; but he was frankly told by the late Sir Henry Cotton, who was then the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, that the question was not really one of the actual fitness or unfitness of any particular district, but of the idiosyncracies and temperaments of different Judges in different places. Thus a district which happened to possess at the time a liberal and broad-minded Judge easily got the franchise, while a district more advanced both in point of education as well as public spirit had to be left out because a prejudiced and unsympathetic Judge could not persuade himself to report favourably for its inclusion. And what was still more regrettable a definite step was taken at this time which practically barred the door against further extension and development of the system for an indefinite period. By a Notification of the Government of Bengal, dated the 19th April, 1897, the legal practitioners were wholly excluded from the list and relieved from the task of jurors or assessors in Sessions trial. The wording of the notification was quite artistic and it possessed a grim humour of its own which was all the more refreshing. The notification ran as follows—

'Under section 320, cl. (*a*) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to *exempt* all legal practitioners in the districts of the province from liability to serve as Jurors or assessors in sessions cases.' This was quickly followed by another exemption equally important which was generously granted to the legal practitioners. For, in the very next year they were further exempted from liability to serve as honorary magistrates also. They could not of course be exempted from the payment of a double income tax against which they had justly complained, but they were gratuitously exempted from offering their services to help the administration and serve as jurors or assessors once in six months. My Lord, it passes the comprehension of ordinary intelligence why the legal profession received so much kind attention and was so zealously exempted from the liability to serve as useful adjuncts to the judicial administration and why the task of carefully weighing evidence was so confidently imposed upon unwilling traders,

(*Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar.*)

shop-keepers, brokers and village touts. The legal practitioners never asked for this exemption. If it was the bugbear of acquittals, I feel constrained to say that the Government was grievously misinformed. My Lord, during nearly 40 years of my humble experience at the mufassal bar, I have always found it easier to obtain a verdict of acquittal at the hands of shop-keeper assessors than with the stiff *muktars* and the stiffer pleader assessors. It is widely known that the late Mr. Mano Mohan Ghose, who was the terror of the mufassal police, was extremely nervous about pleader assessors or jurors. My Lord, I do not overlook the weighty considerations which may justify the exclusion of practising criminal lawyers from the jury or assessor list. But there are many legal practitioners both at the head-quarters of a district as well as in the subdivisions who do not at all deal with criminal cases, while there are many munsif chowkies where there are no criminal cases to deal with. The revenue agents have nothing to do with criminal cases anywhere. The exemption or disqualification may therefore be safely withdrawn in the case of a large number of educated persons who are eminently qualified to serve as jurors and who are likely to strengthen the Jury list of a district. Then there are quite a number of High Schools in almost all the districts of Bengal where there are a large number of graduate and undergraduate teachers who may serve as jurors or assessors. There are also intelligent zemindars and their officers who are available for the purpose; so that if the Jury list is carefully prepared by responsible men and not left to the thanah officer and the village *Panchayet* there will not be wanting a sufficiently strong Jury list for every district.

My Lord, as regards the stock argument that Indian jurors are too prone to acquit in murder cases there is in the first place a sufficient safeguard in the provision for reference to the High Court by a Judge differing from a Jury. Then, my Lord, your Excellency's Government will be glad to learn that we have improved a good deal in this respect since the report of the Jury Commission of 1897. Both the Judges and the Jury in this province have taken due note of that report and are now over-anxious to avoid any possible charge of weakness being brought against them, and the result is that there is now almost an equal number of judicial and non-judicial murders in this country

My Lord, the great importance which the people attach to the privilege of trial by Jury and the real necessity that exists for its liberal application in this country were sometime ago emphasised by a most competent and a very high authority whose opinion is entitled to the greatest respect. Sir Richard Garth, the late Chief Justice of Bengal, shortly after his retirement and with full knowledge of experience of the machinery for the administration of Criminal Justice in this Province, said—

'Of all the privileges I believe which Parliament had bestowed upon India there is none more highly prized by the people than the right of trial by Jury, and well they may prize it. The police are notoriously corrupt and mendacious, the Magistrates too often inexperienced, and the Government, I am sorry to say, far too prone to put an undue pressure upon the mufassal Judges to convict. So that the lives and liberties of innocent persons are often in great jeopardy and the best safeguard they have is an independent Jury who knows the crooked ways of the police and can see through their fraud and falsity.'

My Lord, it is high time that the Government threw off this vacillating policy. The country is fully prepared to receive and exercise this privilege. In this matter of trial by Jury, the first and foremost right of British citizenship, more than 50 years have elapsed in a half-hearted and very limited experiment. There has been a "long pull" and a "short pull" and the reform should no longer remain suspended in the air, but there should now be a "pull all together." I earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble Members, both official and non-official, to rise above all narrow considerations and wholeheartedly accept a recognized principle for the vindication of British justice in the administration of the foremost province in the country."

(*Raja Hrishikesh Laha.*)

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA said :—

"May it please Your Excellency—I rise to support the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta regarding the extension of the system of Trial by Jury beyond the districts in which it is now in force. Since its introduction by the Criminal Procedure Code of 1861, it has by this time received a sufficient trial to justify the proposal of its extension. The sphere of its operation is confined only to a few districts in Bengal and limited to a certain class of offences. In 1890 opinions were called for by the Government of India as to its working in the Lower Provinces of Bengal by their letter No. 742, dated the 31st May of that year. The majority of opinions no doubt shows that the system was still capable of improvement and that it was not working quite in a satisfactory manner. Since then about a quarter of a century has elapsed, a period during which education has made rapid strides and even the most backward districts have now their schools and colleges. My Lord, I do not wish it to be understood that during this period the defects of the system have totally disappeared. Any system, however sound it may be, loses a part of its efficacy under unfavourable circumstances. The very fact that it has been in existence for over half a century shows that the principle of administering justice, at least in certain classes of offences by the jury system, has been recognised by our Government. If anything unfavourable has happened, the circumstances are to be blamed and not the system. It has been said that failure of justice occurs owing to the incompetency of the jurors; that they are prone to let off persons charged with serious offences, if they happen to be of position and respectability; that they are influenced by caste and social prejudices, amenable to extra-judicial influences and reluctant to inflict capital punishment even when justice requires it. It should, however, be observed that—

(1) Jurors are selected in a haphazard manner without any reference to their competency or qualification, the list being prepared on the report of the Police or of *Amlahs* who are not in a position to judge of the necessary qualifications.

(2) The Magistrate who commits cases to the Sessions sometimes does so on evidence which cannot stand the test of examination. It should also be noted that the cases committed to the Sessions are Police cases conducted by Police Officers and the commitments are sometimes made with a view to avoid the displeasure of superior officers who are also the heads of the Police, leaving the accused to take their chances of acquittal or conviction in the Courts of Sessions.

(3) There is a general suspicion and distrust of the Police. When therefore a case comes up which involves the infliction of capital punishment, a suspicion arises in the minds of the jurors that the evidence is not as it should be, and when a suspicion once takes hold of the mind, even the best-trained judicial officer, not to speak of the half-educated jurors, cannot shake it off. It is then thought it is better that ten guilty persons should escape than one innocent person should be punished: a life once taken cannot be got back. Under such circumstances it is not strange that the benefit of the doubt is given to the accused. It will therefore be observed that a culprit charged with murder is not wilfully let off by the jury, as it has been supposed.

It is clear therefore that to remove the above defects a scheme for the better selection of qualified jurors be introduced; careless committals be restricted, and the conduct of Police cases be placed in more capable hands. This will remove the defects ascribed to the system.

On the other hand, the benefit arising from the system has not been inconsiderable. *Firstly*, there can be no doubt that the jurors afford material help in coming to a conclusion about facts, as they are intimately acquainted

(*Babu Bhibendra Chandra Ray.*)

with the manners, customs, habits and modes of thought of their own countrymen, which an alien Judge, who does not fully understand the language of the people, is not in a position to know. *Secondly*, Mr. Justice Beverley rightly observes that "the employment of juries serves to disseminate the knowledge of the criminal law, and such extended knowledge, it may be presumed, must have a tendency to repress crime." *Thirdly*, the people consider it to be a valued right and valuable safeguard to the liberty of the subject. *Fourthly*, Mr. Beveridge says, "if it is to be considered also a political institution and as a means of educating the people and interesting them in the subject of crimes, then there is a good deal to be said for the retention of the system."

There can be no doubt that some reluctance is shown even by educated people to serve on the jury, not for their innate hatred of the system, but for the trouble it entails upon them while attending Courts as jurors. Besides coming from a long distance and incurring expenses, they have generally to dance attendance day after day till they are empanelled, without having any room to sit even, except under the shade of the big trees in the compound of the Court premises, and without any arrangement for their comfort and convenience. Most of the people who are thus called upon to serve as jurors are of moderate means, and can therefore ill afford to sacrifice their time and money in prolonged attendance. It is human nature to try to avoid troubles.

If the defects of the system, as stated above, be removed, and the comforts and convenience of the jurors be looked into, with a provision to pay their expenses, there can be no doubt that the system would be a still more popular one.

With these remarks, I beg to support the resolution, leaving it to Government to determine which districts should have the extension of the Jury system and which classes of cases should be tried by the jurors."

The Hon'ble Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray said :—

"My Lord, I have listened with great interest to the debate in which some of our lawyer friends have naturally taken a prominent part. It may be that a few words from a layman, devoid of technicalities and puzzling references to statute and section, will not be quite amiss at this stage. Indeed, the resolution now before us embodies a demand on behalf of the lay public to try and be tried by themselves—a privilege which has been highly prized in every age and clime. The principle of trial by one's peers has found recognition in one shape or another almost all over the civilized world. In India, it can be traced back to ancient days when the king or his judges were prohibited by sages and law-givers from trying singly and without the aid of chosen members of the public, who formed an indispensable part of the judicial system, and in some respects influenced the trial much more than the modern English jury. The principle of co-operation of expert and lay elements, which is exemplified in every branch of the British constitution, reached a high pitch of development in England in regard to administration of justice even during the middle ages. As a learned author has described the British system, "the judge, a Royal officer of high rank, supplies the expert knowledge, while the lay influence is exerted by means of a panel of twelve men of average ignorance drawn from the community by lot for the occasion; and although this is not the usual method of combining the two elements, their reciprocal control has certainly been effective." My Lord, this control of expert knowledge by common sense—happily ignorant of technicalities—makes for equilibrium in the administration of justice.

Apart from this, we claim to be associated more and more in every branch of administration. And this participation by the people in the judicial administration is a necessary factor of self-government, and a concession to

(*Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.*)

which there ought not to be the least objection in any quarter. The jury system, moreover, has an educative value all its own, and helps to enhance the self-respect of the people.

My Lord, so far as the principle underlying trial by jury is concerned, the Indian Government has committed itself by introducing the system in selected areas. And what we really want to-day is that it should be liberalised and further extended. As matters stand, eleven districts of Bengal, chosen I do not know on what considerations, enjoy the privilege of the jury system; and there even the verdict of the jury has not the same value as in England or in Calcutta. But in the remaining districts the decision of the Sessions Judge is not in any way fettered by the opinions of the Assessors. The law no doubt provides for appeals to the High Court even on questions of fact against the decisions of the Sessions Courts in the Assessor districts. But the remedies which the High Court provides in its criminal appellate and revisional jurisdictions, are becoming more and more illusory. I grieve to have to say so, but the High Court of Calcutta, in so far at least as it concerns itself with criminal justice, has managed to forfeit half the confidence of the public that it enjoyed some time back. It is a well-known fact that the personnel of the Criminal Bench very largely determines the number of applications made and appeals preferred against decisions of the subordinate judiciary. And an impression is unfortunately gaining ground that the constitution of the Bench is made with particular care that the decisions of the Courts below may be as seldom interfered with as possible. My Lord, when we are at this juncture that the High Court cannot always be depended upon to right our wrongs, it is incumbent upon us to see that judicial administration is improved at its very base.

With these words I accord my hearty support to the Resolution which has been moved by my Hon'ble friend Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ said:—

"My Lord, as at present advised, I feel inclined to oppose this resolution, but in doing so, I do not wish to be misunderstood. I find that there is an overwhelming majority of non-official opinion in favour of this resolution, and I cannot say that my own doubts as to the utility of the system of trial by jury are strong enough to justify me in placing myself in direct opposition to such a volume of non-official opinion. But at the same time, I feel that the issues raised by this question are of a somewhat far-reaching importance and it is but necessary and proper that Hon'ble Members should have before them the question threshed out from every possible point of view in order that they may arrive at a correct and more definite opinion on such an important question. My Lord, I do not think that there can be any room for controversy as to the intrinsic merits of a real system of trial by jury. I freely admit that this system, in all its genuine purity, is embalmed in all those lofty principles of liberty and justice which distinguish British legal institutions from amongst those of other civilised nations of the world. I also admit that the introduction of a real system of trial by jury will be one of the greatest boons which the beneficence of England could confer upon the people of India. But I cannot bring myself to believe that the system of trial by jury as at present in vogue in India is even a modest approximation of the system as it is known in England. It is defective in form; it is deficient in constitution and it is essentially wanting in all the safeguards which are necessary not merely in securing verdicts in consonance with law and justice but also in ensuring these verdicts from being revised by any final authority. The English system is the genuine article which deserves to be honoured and encouraged. The Indian system is a base imitation; it is full of all those elements of danger to the liberty of the accused which the system is supposed to guard against. It is because I am convinced that the system is a baneful one that I find it necessary to say these few words in opposition to a recommendation which I admit has had the enthusiastic support of the

(*Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul Huda.*)

leaders of political thought in India during the last 30 years. The Hon'ble Member who moved the resolution had 30 minutes to deliver his speech, but my time is limited to 15. I will therefore only touch some of the principal points on which I base my condemnation of the system of trial by jury in India.

To begin with, as some of the previous speakers have already pointed out, there is no finality in the verdict of a jury."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL HUDA said :—

I rise to a point of order. Although several speakers have spoken in the same strain, I think that it is right that there should be no discussion as to the merits of the present jury system. We are not concerned with the merits of the system which now exists, we are concerned only with the extension of the system to the districts. I therefore rise to a point of order that the discussion should be confined to the desirability of extending the present system of trial by jury to districts other than those in which it already exists.

[The Hon'ble Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq was permitted to continue his speech.]

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ, continuing, said :—

"I do not see, my Lord, how it can be possible for anybody to express an opinion on the question before us unless we discuss the system. Is the system one which we should like to see extended, or is the system one which, in the interests of the people, we should like to see abolished altogether? I think the question of merits and demerits of the system is intimately bound up with the question whether the system should be extended or not. I hope the Hon'ble Member who will speak on behalf of the Government, will kindly hear me to the end, because I wish to place both official and non-official views on this question before the house. I was just going to refer to the want of finality in the verdict of a jury. Unlike as in England, the verdict of the jury is subject to further scrutiny by a presiding Judge and it is only when the verdict of the jury coincides with the opinion of the Judge, that there is anything like finality. In case the Judge does not agree with the jury he refers the case to the High Court which then becomes the final arbiter of the destiny of an accused. It may be said that when the final orders are to be passed by the High Court there is no possibility of any miscarriage of justice or any danger to the liberty of the subject. If the High Courts in India, I say with great regret, had maintained their reputation for independence which they had justly enjoyed in the past, there might have been some justification for an argument of this character. Unfortunately, however, the deterioration of the High Court during the past few years has shaken the public confidence. I mean no disrespect to any of the learned Judges composing the various High Courts in India, but were I to give expression to a common feeling, the High Courts of the present day inspire no more confidence than, let us say, the Court of the third class Honorary Magistrate in the mufassal. Perhaps in some respects the Honorary Magistrate's Court is slightly better. I do not wish to cause any surprise in the Council, but there are some reasons for what I say. The Honorary Magistrate knows that he is after all a very insignificant person and that his decisions are subject to appeal, but a High Court Judge is full of his own judicial importance and he is puffed up with the idea that whatever rigmarole he may utter will be crystallized into the pages of the law reports and will be propounded as the law of the land. This being so, I do not think that the people are very far wrong in not placing their confidence in the judicial decisions of the High Courts as they used to do previously. So far therefore as to the protection afforded by a reference to the High Court. As to the protection afforded by the provision for a reference to the High Court, I think that I voice a very general public opinion when I say that it is of an extremely shadowy character. I may mention in passing that

(*Babu Mahendra Chandra Mitra.*)

this power conferred by the Code of Criminal Procedure on judges to refer matters to the High Court in cases of disagreement with the jury has been a curious development of the law of Criminal Procedure. It did not exist in the law of 1861; it was first introduced in the Criminal Procedure Code of 1872 and has been a part of the Criminal Procedure Code ever since. So far therefore as regards the want of finality in the verdict of the jury.

There is another matter in which no reference has yet been made by any Hon'ble Member to-day, and I do not know if any Hon'ble Members who are going to speak after me will refer to it. It is this. There is a certain class of cases in which it is sometimes very difficult for accused persons to get a fair verdict. I refer to those cases in which jurors belonging to a particular class are swayed by sentiment, passion or prejudice and are sometimes led to return a verdict not based on the evidence, but on their own opinion and their own feeling as to the guilt or innocence of the accused. I do not wish to go into details, but Hon'ble Members know very well what I mean; it is in these cases that it is almost impossible to get a fair verdict, and if the Judge has got the weakness to accept the verdict of the jury, there is no possibility for the accused to get fair justice because there is no appeal to the High Court, and if there is no misdirection to the jury, the verdict of the jury stands good. Then, my Lord, there is another matter to which a passing reference has been made, but which I wish to emphasize as much as I can. This is what happens sometimes in the mufassal, when Judges give the charge to the jury. I speak from personal experience. I have found Judges, not intentionally let me say, charge the jury at the moment using expressions which have got the obvious result of misleading the jury, and of emphasising some portions of the evidence which go against the accused. In these cases the Judge unknowingly and unwittingly misdirects the jury, but when it comes to writing out the charge for the purpose of its being placed before the High Court, he forgets perhaps the exact words he has used and the charge contains very little of the actual expressions used. When the charge is brought up before the High Court, the Judges say, "Well, this is a fair charge, there is no misdirection," when, as a matter of fact, the jury had actually misunderstood the charge. All this would be avoided by having a set of shorthand writers attached to the Courts. But under the present circumstances the Judge may, I do not say he actually will, say one thing and write out something quite different.

Then it has been suggested to me that I should not oppose this Resolution but support the recommendations and join in a petition to have the law amended. It may be that that would be a very sound policy, but I think that if we were to wait to have the law amended, we might have to wait till the Greek Calends. As I said on a previous occasion, the mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small, but the mills of Government grind so very slowly that they sometimes seem not to grind at all. It takes years and years before a certain reform is introduced; it may be 50 years before we get the Code of Criminal Procedure in a way we should like to have it, but what is to happen during these 50 years? Are we to have this defective system introduced all over Bengal, and in the words of the Hon'ble Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar, go on having judicial murders committed without any remedy, or is it not better to wait and to agitate to have the law modified and the defects remedied, and then to ask Government to let us have trial by jury all over the Presidency? I have no doubt, my Lord, that we will have it all over Bengal. The time must come, but it must come, and it is only a question of time. Why not wait a few years and have these defects remedied and then unanimously ask to have the system extended all over the Presidency, in order to meet the united wishes of all the people and of all the communities in this country?"

The Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR said:—

"My Lord, at the meeting of the Council held on the 1st December 1913 a question was put by one of the Hon'ble Members 'that in view of the

(*Babu Mahendra Chandra Mitra.*)

advance in education during the last 20 years have the Government of Bengal considered the desirability of introducing the trial by Jury in the non-jury districts?' To this the Hon'ble Mr. Cumming replied that in 1897, the system of trial by Jury was extended to the districts of Chittagong, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Jessore, and in 1905 to the district of Khulna. The present motion put forward by my Hon'ble friend to-day is for the introduction of the system of trial by Jury in all non-jury districts in Bengal for offences triable by Courts of Sessions.

If we go to the brief history of jury notifications, we notice that the earliest one dates from the 7th January 1862 and by it, it was ordered by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal that in the districts of 24-Parganas, Hooghly, Burdwan, Murshidabad, Nadia, Patna and Dacca, the trial by any Court of Session of all the offences defined in Chapters VIII, XI, XVI, and XVII of the Indian Penal Code should be by Jury. Then followed the notification, dated the 27th May of the same year, for the trial by jury of the offences defined in Chapter XVIII of the Indian Penal Code in the above-mentioned districts, and on the 13th October 1862, it was ordered that abetments of and attempts to commit any of the above-mentioned offences in the districts specified should be tried by Jury.

After a period of 30 years, there appeared the notification dated the 20th October 1892. Its publication led to very considerable public agitation and was referred to a Commission which consisted of many distinguished persons, viz., Sir H. T. Prinsep, Sir G. H. P. Evans, Maharaja Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore, Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter and Mr. C. A. Wilkins. On the submission of their report the said notification was withdrawn on the 27th March 1893 and there was a fresh notification for trial of offences under Chapters VIII, XI, XVI, XVII and XVIII of the Indian Penal Code by Jury. On the 19th April 1897 there was a notification for trial by Jury under Chapters VIII, XI, XVI, XVII, XVIII and XX of the Indian Penal Code and it was extended to the districts of Chittagong, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Jessore. In 1905 it was extended to the district of Khulna. The question that has been raised is of great importance and demands the consideration of the Council. The system of the trial by Jury is not the creation of the law enacted by British Legislature. It is laid down in the Code of Manu—the Hindu Law-giver, and therefore it is not foreign to our ideas. The trial of Session cases by Jury has been in force since a long time, say more than half a century, and I think the system has been tried with success in districts where it has been introduced. To rectify errors on the part of the Jury provisions have been made by section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code. I am aware that there is a class of people who advocate the view that the provisions of section 307 should be removed from the Code. This is evidently to attach finality to the verdict of the Jury. It is a controversial matter and I may be privileged to say that it ought to demand the consideration of the Imperial Legislature. The High Court in many cases have declined to interfere with the unanimous verdict of the Jury. The reason is clear because the Jurors are 'better able to draw inferences of facts and to discriminate between truth and falsehood of conflicting oral evidence given in their own language.' The Jury is guided by many European Sessions Judges who, though they may be considered as trained Judges of experience, are not familiar with the manners and customs of the Indians. The Legislature has carefully laid down the powers and duties of a Judge and a Jury. The opinion of the Judge may or may not be accepted by the Jury. The whole responsibility of the decision on facts rests upon the Jury. The Judge is merely to expound the law. Under such circumstances, there appears to be a harmonious consistency in the procedure laid down for the trial of Session cases. When Sessions Judges do not understand the vernacular language, the necessity of Jurors who understand the language in which evidence is given, becomes manifest. There are many advantages of a trial by Jury in criminal cases in the Sessions Court.

(*Babu Mahendra Chandra Mitra.*)

The complaint of certain classes of people that convictions in Session cases are not in proportion to what they desire is a chronic one. This is due to their zeal for getting their chosen accused punished and, consequently, this complaint will be an outstanding fact not only in India but in many other civilized countries. Evidence tested by the canons of the law of evidence and properly sifted by Jurors is a guide for the final decision of the case. Cases must frequently arise in which the Court is compelled to give a formal decision which conflicts with a moral conviction. The object of evidence is juridical as opposed to moral conviction, though in many cases both may co-exist. The trial by Jury system in all districts may be urged on the following grounds :—

(*i*) The Assessors who are required to help the Sessions Judge are recruited from the same class of people as the Jurors.

(*ii*) The advance in education in Bengal after half a century since the first notification of the year 1862 urges the necessity for the extension of the jury notification to all non-jury districts of the Presidency of Bengal.

The success of the jury system of trial depends upon a proper selection of jurors. Justice is done in all cases, if we get intelligent and duly qualified jurors. If the preparation of the list of jurors is virtually left to irresponsible subordinate officers, it cannot be viewed as satisfactory. Your Excellency's Government has been pleased to make it incumbent upon the District officials to spend a great portion of the year on tour. Magistrates may consult the leading men of the locality and have thus great opportunites to select competent persons as jurors. They are on tour in every part of the district and they always come in contact with all sorts of men in the mufassal. If an experienced Magistrate is deputed for this purpose, he may be depended on to obtain men who by the light of common sense, intelligence and education will appreciate the value of evidence adduced before them as section 3 of the Evidence Act defines a proved fact. If a prudent man by appealing to his experience considers that a certain fact is probable, that may be considered as a proved fact. The probabilities of the case must be weighed with caution and certainty. I may add in this connection that the legal practitioners of our country who, by virtue of their special knowledge of law, are competent to weigh evidence properly have been excluded from sitting as Jurors. In my humble opinion this rule should be amended. I am led to think that when education has spread far and wide in the districts of the Presidency of Bengal such people are easily available. My experience warrants me from my place in the Council to submit my views for the consideration of Hon'ble Members. It is the favourite idea of accused persons to be tried by their own countrymen, whether in England or India. Many accused persons have expressed their appreciation of the verdict by the Jury in preference to the orders passed by the Magistrates. It cannot be denied that the verdict of a single Judge is not more safe and sound than that of five Judges.

I submit that the system of trial by Jury may be extended to those districts of the Presidency of Bengal in which it is not now in force

I am aware that the Criminal Procedure Code is within a short time likely to be amended by the Legislative Council of His Excellency the Governor-General of India, but by virtue of the provisions of section 269, clause (1) of the present Code, Your Excellency's Government may recommend to the Imperial Council for the introduction of the system as the Resolution of the Hon'ble Mover proposes.

My Lord, this system of trial by Jury in non-jury districts is advocated by many educated people of the Presidency. Your Excellency's Government of this Province is based upon the wishes of the people, and if these wishes are reasonable and practicable, they demand a favourable judgment from Your Excellency's Government.

(*Mr. K. B. Dutt.*)

I am sensible that we are passing through critical times. Crime must be checked, law and order maintained and the people of this country must help and they always do help Your Excellency's Government whenever called upon to do so. Justice must be administered by a machinery which is simple and satisfactory. The people are willing to sit as Judges and deal with crimes if their services are wanted. Experience has shown that, notwithstanding adverse criticism, the system is worth trying. The Jurors cannot but be guided by learned expounders of law, and, by their common sense, they may be depended upon to pronounce those guilty who are really guilty and those innocent who are really innocent."

The Hon'ble Mr. Ashraf Ali Khan Chaudhuri said :—

"My Lord, in rising to support the extension of the jury system in this Province I must state that this extension, if achieved, would be not only a source of the internal improvement of a certain section of our judicial machinery, but also of the ultimate betterment of what I may be permitted to term our legal morality.

I certainly do not mean to suggest that all the defects of our criminal judicial system would disperse simply by the extensive adoption of the jury system, as if by the fairy touch of a magic wand. No, what I do say is that delays, so inherent a factor in our system, the avoidance of which is such a vital factor in every system of justice, would be considerably lessened simply by the necessity of the parties and the pleaders and all others concerned to consult the convenience and the wishes of at least half a dozen men drawn from various sections of the community.

Frequent applications for adjournments and frequent applications for transfer from one bench to another would be a thing of the past. Justice itself would flow more smoothly, the Judge being the interpreter of the Law and the jury the ultimate judges of fact.

Secondly, both the public and the police, recognising the very elementary fact that it is more difficult to please half-a-dozen than one, would avoid entering into 'useless' cases and thoughtless trials. Furthermore, this very cause would lessen the mischief of false witnesses and false evidence, all of which would tend to set a higher and nobler value on our legal morality or legal consciousness.

Of course there are defects in the present system. But weighed in the balance with the sterling benefits derived from the Jury system those defects will be found to be comparatively infinitesimal. I am convinced that in about 80 per cent. of the cases tried by Jurors in our courts, the verdicts given are correct. It would be of no use in doing away with the present system altogether and then trying for the system which prevails in England. It is better to extend the existing system now and then to improve upon it.

Although the system would not usher in the Golden Age, but it would really increase our golden asset of moral independence and would mould the golden chain of sympathy and understanding between the police and the public."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. B. Dutt said :—

"My Lord, I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by my Hon'ble friend and, in doing so, I must make my position perfectly clear. I am not prepared to say that the system of trial by jury is perfect or is likely to be perfect ever in this country or in any other country. But Your Excellency's Government must determine what is the feeling of the people in this respect. From the interesting discussion which has taken place in this Council, there cannot be the least doubt in anybody's mind that the people want it and want it because they seem to think that it is the better system of trial. It is for that reason, and that reason alone that Government ought to concede this political concession, because to my mind it is nothing more.

(*Mr. Z. R. Zahid Suhrawardy.*)

nothing less, than something in the direction of a cheap political concession. The acceptance of this resolution to my mind depends entirely upon the non-official European members of this Council and I shall therefore appeal to them to look to this question apart from any difference which might arise between them and us. This is a matter to which the people of this country attach a good deal of importance. They think that that would improve their method of trial and it would not be wise and it would not be statesmanlike to go against the wishes of the people. The Hon'ble Mr. Faz-ul Haq has pointed out certain defects and I regret to have to say that I also share in his opinion, but at the same time the time must come when Your Excellency's Government must give effect at least to the principle. It is for the principle that we desire an extension of the jury system where it does not exist now. If the principle is recognised, I have not the least doubt that the responsible legislators of the Imperial Council will in time try to remove these obstacles. With these few observations I wish again to appeal to the non-official European members to consider the question not from a party spirit but to consider whether the people want it or not. I think it would not be sound statesmanship to oppose this resolution because the non-official Bengali members want it."

The Hon'ble BABU KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI said :—

"My Lord, I have also much pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by my Hon'ble friend Babu Akhil Chandra Datta. I come from a mufassal district and I have sufficient experience of the pre-jury trial system and also the system which now obtains, and without a moment's hesitation I can say that the present system is a far better one. The authoritative opinion of local people, having sufficient knowledge of the habits, peculiarities and social environments of the people to be dealt with, is a thing which is an important factor in determining the question of facts involved in particular cases. My friend the Hon'ble Mr. Haq thinks that it is a pernicious system because there are certain defects. Defects there are, I do not deny, but these defects could be remedied. He thinks that there is no finality and my friend has no confidence in the High Court. My friend practises in the High Court, and of his condemnation of the High Court judiciary, I am not in a position to judge, but I can say that on that account jury trial fares no worse. In a jury trial, my friend thinks we can rely upon the honorary bench in the mufassal more than we can rely upon the High Court Judges. If that is so in the jury trial there is an honorary bench composed generally of five persons who can pronounce opinions with sufficient knowledge, as I have already said, on questions of fact. My friend also thinks that fair justice cannot be expected, but he hints on, I believe, personal prejudices. But there is a provision for taking objection to the personnel of a jury. It may be done by the Public Prosecutor; it may be done by the accused, and if there is any failure, there is the provision for reference to the High Court, so on that account we cannot condemn the system. There is one objection, a very valid objection. In most cases, I think I have got sufficient experience in my own district, charges are not written out before they are submitted to the jury. That can be insisted on. Charges should be written out first, or shorthand-writers could be available for taking notes as soon as the charge is delivered. On this account I do not think that we should say that it is not to our advantage to have the jury system and that we should reject it. My friend thinks that the time has not yet come. I do not know when it would come. With the progress of education, I think the time has come when we should extend it to all those districts in which it is not in vogue. With these words, my Lord, I beg to support this resolution."

The Hon'ble MR. Z. R. ZAHID SUHRAWARDY said :—

"My Lord, I have listened with much attention and interest to the arguments that have been advanced in support of the resolution that is now before

(*Mr. Z. R. Zahid Suhrawardy.*)

Your Excellency's Council. But I regret very much that I have not been convinced of the cogency of the reasons for the adoption of the resolution, especially in view of the present state of the law. In the first place, my Lord, it seems to me that the cry for the extension of the jury system at the present moment is not the outcome of a natural and keenly felt desire or necessity. It strikes me as the outcome of a desire for imitation or perhaps of provincial patriotism. The triumph on the banks of the Jumna may have inspired some of us with the possibility of securing a similar achievement on the banks of the Ganges. If the cry was real we should have heard it louder and *more shrill* years ago. Apart from all these considerations, I do not think that in the present state of the law any extension of the system of a trial by jury should be granted. We have heard the defects in the law so forcibly put before the Council. Yet there are some defects to which advertence probably has not been made very pertinently. As the law at present stands, the verdict of the jury is always subordinate to the judgment of the Judge. It is the voice of the Judge which is the voice of the Court. Statistics have been brought forward in this Council in order to prove that the verdict of the jury in the majority of cases has been correct. Statistics are very pliable tools which can be made to serve any purpose you like. It has been said that a very small percentage of the verdicts of the jury has been set aside by the High Court. The percentage is drawn on the basis of the entire number of cases tried by jury. In cases in which the Judge concurs with the jury there is no appeal. So in such cases there is no test to find out the correctness of the verdict of the jury or the soundness of the judgment of the Judge. Leaving that aside, if we look to the number of references made to the High Court in which a judge has thought fit to differ from the verdict of the jury, we find that in a large number of cases, almost 75 per cent., the reference has been accepted and the verdict of the jury overruled. That being the state of the law, and that being the state of things, is it desirable to extend it territorially to such offences as are at the present moment included in those which are not triable exclusively with the aid of a jury? The system of trial by jury has been described by an English constitutional writer as the famous institution the development of which is generally regarded as one of the greatest achievements of English jurisprudence. But at the same time many eminent English writers have pointed out the defects in the system even as it obtains in England, and these faults, the inherent faults in the system, are likely to be exaggerated by transplantation. Indian soil is hardly fit for the growth and development of a system of justice which is calculated to control the opinions and the deliberations of a presiding Judge, even as the Parliament aims at controlling or limiting the actions of the Monarch. The difference between the civic life in India and that of England is so great that a wholesale transplantation of an English institution into Indian soil would mean disaster. My Lord, there is one other point which may be urged to illustrate in what confidence Trial by jury is held by the people. Lawyers here, who have supported the resolution, no doubt represent the people, and they have the right to speak on their behalf. But if you ask the people themselves, what they think about this system, you will know what they think about it. Lawyers and legal practitioners in the courts are very jealous of what they call the last word or the right of reply. It is because in the ears of laymen or people who are not trained to weigh evidence or to look at a case dispassionately without being influenced or swayed by personal or communal considerations or by considerations of wealth, position or influence or of the character of the prosecutor or the prisoner, the last word lingers long, and therefore there is the attempt always to have the last word. In 99 out of 100 cases in the subordinate courts where there is no jury, whether the court is presided over by a Magistrate or a Judge, we find that evidence is adduced on behalf of the defence to refute the case that has been made out by the prosecution, but in the Sessions cases, the ratio is quite the reverse. In 90 cases out of 100, you will find that no evidence is adduced on behalf of the defence because under the law as it stands if any evidence, documentary or oral, is adduced on

behalf of the defence, the right of reply or the last word is lost and therefore the accused or his lawyer deems the right of reply, to have the last word, more valuable than adducing evidence that may be cogent enough to convince the Judge of his innocence. I feel so strongly on this point that I venture to say that my friends have been to a very great degree led away by sentiment. They have not looked at the practical side of the question. I appeal to them to look at the practical side of it, and to say whether it will be really beneficial to the people, dissociating it from any idea of the propagation of the principle of self-government, or the establishment of any other valued principle. I would humbly request them to look at it from the utilitarian point of view. Taking, for example, if, as it is proposed, Trial by Jury is extended to a simple case of theft, the result would be that if the Judge concurs with the jury, the man loses the right of appeal, whereas now if he gets six months, he can go to the Sessions and then to the High Court. He has at least two other places to try his chance and to get an acquittal if possible. I therefore think that it is not the proper time, considering the law as it stands, to extend the system.

There is one other matter. We must also see whether we are sufficiently educated to be saddled with this responsibility and sit in judgment over our own fellows. By education I do not mean mere literacy, but that developed state of mind which can approach a case without being influenced, swayed or biassed by any extraneous matter or independent information. With these remarks, I beg to oppose the resolution which has been proposed."

The Hon'ble MR. A. RASUL said :—

"My Lord, having regard to the fact that this question has already been fully discussed, I shall only add a very few words. As far as the principle of the system of Trial by Jury is concerned, I do not think the members of the Government can say anything against it. If it were so, then I think they would have tried to have the system abolished in the districts in which it exists now. Now, because the system has been in existence in some of the districts for so many years and with good results, I do not suppose the Government will ever think of abolishing this system from these districts. If it is considered good as regards those very districts where it exists, where is the harm in extending this very system to other districts?

Now, in every civilised country it is only natural that a man prefers to be tried by a number of men who are his peers than by one single person. Although this system has existed for so many centuries in England and afterwards also in almost all the countries in Europe as some of the previous speakers have already stated, it was not altogether unknown in India, as we have had the *Punchayat* system. Even now, in some of the districts in Eastern Bengal, when anybody wants to be tried by his people with regard to village disputes, he says—I would like to be tried by *Dash* (*dasher bichar chai*), I want to be tried by ten persons. He does not want to be tried by one single person, so the *Punchayat* system exists in almost every village in Eastern Bengal, and as regards the principle nothing can be said against it. Some of the speakers have said that it ought not to be extended because there are some defects in it. No doubt there are defects, and as one speaker said, no system can be perfect, and we should not expect even the system of Trial by Jury to be perfect. If I am not mistaken, in 1912-13 even in England, a Commission was appointed to inquire into the system as to whether it could be improved upon, so therefore even in England the people do not think it is a perfect system and they want to have it improved.

My Hon'ble friend Mr. Fazl-ul Haq stated in the very beginning of his speech that he was not against the principle of the system, but what he objected to were the defects. The defects are due to what?—they are due to the method of selection. If you have a better method of selection, I do not think that you will have so many defects, and so many miscarriages of justice on account of certain offences being tried by jury. My friend also

(*Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.*)

said that there was also a question of class and community. No doubt it does happen, even in England. If I am not mistaken, just a few years ago in the trial of Mrs. Maybrick she made an application that she did not want to be tried by the jurors of Liverpool. She did not think that she would get justice from the jurors in that locality; so in other parts of England such questions have arisen and such questions will always arise, but happily such questions will be few and far between.

Now, with regard to what my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Zahid Suhrawardy said I do not know on whose behalf he has spoken, whether as a barrister on behalf of the barristers practising in the High Court, or on behalf of the Muhammadan community, or on behalf of the public in general. He said that there was no keenly felt desire as far as this question was concerned. I know my learned friend is not a member of the Congress and I do not know if he reads the newspapers regularly, but I know that for the last 20 or 30 years the Congress has been discussing this question and at the Congress the representatives of the people always attend, and when they are demanding that this reform must be introduced, I take it that they speak on behalf of the people of India, therefore, it is not correct to say that there is no keenly felt desire for this reform. Then my friend says that as the law stands now, it is a perfect system, and I think that as far as he is concerned, he is quite satisfied with it. What my friend said about the 'last word'. I submit that it is absolutely irrelevant to the question before us. If it is conceded that the system of Trial by Jury should be adopted, I submit that it should be adopted at once, and with regard to the defects, the Government can easily do away with them by introducing a better method of selection.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. B. Dutt has appealed to the European non-official members of this Council, and I also appeal to them, that they should not be swayed by any personal bias, because the non-official Indian members are supporting it and very likely the Government may oppose this resolution. May I say just one word. I am not here to raise any racial question. Under section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure we all know that every European in this country, for whatever offence it may be, can claim to be tried by his peers. Here we do not want to go so far as that. We want that those offences which are triable by a Court of Session should be tried by jury. When Europeans in this country can demand to be tried by jury even in theft cases or in paltry cases, I am sure they ought to have some fellow-feeling and ought to support this resolution, even if they find that Government are going to oppose it. With these words, I support the resolution."

The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur said —

"My Lord, when I came into the Council Chamber I had no intention of speaking on the subject now before us. But the debate on the subject has so much enlightened me that I think I should not record a silent vote. My Lord, it must be admitted that there is some divergence of opinion on the subject. But at the same time I am sure that there is a preponderance of public opinion in favour of extending the Jury system. My Lord, it is true that Trials by Jury in mufassal Courts are not the same as Trials by Jury in Presidency towns in India or in Great Britain. I know that there are defects in the system, but knowing also that the system of Trial by Jury is an instrument of self-culture and self-development to prepare us for the administration of affairs in our own country, I give my support to the motion.

My Lord, I have listened with great interest to the various points that have been urged by several Hon'ble members who preceded me. And it struck me that there was a similar interesting debate, perhaps in this very Chamber, in Lord Ripon's time, when the celebrated Ilbert Bill was about to be passed into law. My Lord, I wanted to refresh my memory and through the courtesy of the Legislative Council officers I have got hold of the proceedings of the years 1883 and 1884. I find that a motion was moved by the Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Lachmi Prasad Singh Bahadur of Darbhanga in the

(*Mr. Aminur Rahman.*)

Viceroy's Council to the effect that the Jury system should be introduced in Session Courts in cases where the accused would demand to be tried by a jury. There was an animated discussion at the time and I find that the sympathies of Government were on the side of the Maharaja. But at the same time it was stated that as that motion was brought forward rather late, it could not be fully considered by Government. As it was the last day of the debate, Lord Ripon asked the Maharaja not to press it although he (Lord Ripon) expressed his full sympathy with the motion. What the Maharaja wanted was that an accused should be tried by a jury in a Court of Session only if he expressed a wish to that effect. The same privilege was accorded, as has been stated by the Hon'ble Mr. Rasul, to European British subjects in India, with this difference, that they can demand to be tried by a jury even before a Magistrate. Sir William Hunter also expressed his full sympathy with the object of the motion but was sorry that he could not rush such a motion at the last stage of the debate. The Hon'ble Mr. Amir Ali, one of the most worthy representatives of the Muhammadans, expressed not only his own opinion but also the opinion of the community which he represented when he said while supporting the motion that there were many assessor-districts quite as advanced as the jury-districts. My Lord, I find that Indian public opinion was whole-heartedly in sympathy with the Maharaja's motion, although there was at that time only one elected member in the Council representing the land holding class in connection with the Bengal Tenancy Bill. My Lord, I have not fully stated what Mr. Amir Ali said on that occasion. While earnestly supporting the motion, Mr. Amir Ali also pointed out that there would be difficulties in granting a wholesale extension of jury trial to all the districts. He was afraid that the Trial by Jury might not be always advantageous to the accused, for while in a trial by assessors the accused had the right of appeal to the High Court on questions of law as well as of facts, in the case of a conviction on a Trial by Jury he had no such right of appeal except only on a question of law. Therefore, he was not in favour of the extension of the jury system to places which were not prepared for it.

My Lord, I find myself somewhat in the position of Mr. Amir Ali. On principle, I fully support the Resolution that has been moved, but at the same time I am not yet quite certain whether a wholesale extension of Trial by Jury to all the districts will be an unmixed blessing to the accused having regard to the legal defects which were pointed out not only by Mr. Amir Ali 34 years ago but also by some members here to-day. I think the matter requires consideration, but at the same time, having regard to the principle involved in the Resolution, I think, we should all support it. I am sure the matter will receive the most earnest and careful consideration at the hands of Government, and as far as practicable the system will be extended to the districts which are ripe for it."

The Hon'ble MR. AMINUR RAHMAN said :—

"My Lord, the question we are discussing to-day has been the subject of long and sometimes bitter controversy in this country. In this meeting to-day we have heard members who staunchly support the Resolution. As far as I know they are really voicing the feelings and opinions of the majority—I must say an immense majority of the people of this land. Others again have as strongly opposed the Resolution and I know that they are giving expression to serious misgivings that exist in the hearts of many. My Lord, if there is one good reason for not establishing the system of Trial by Jury there are a hundred good reasons for having it. I am not sure if all the hundred have not already been put forward by the Hon'ble members who preceded me. I cannot say that I have any special contribution to make. But the subject provokes discussion and the discussion of to-day has given rise to most conflicting thoughts in the minds of many—at least it has in mine. But by weighing the merits of the points in favour and against the extension of this

(*Mr. H. R. A. Irwin.*)

system, I am bound to confess that a judgment in favour of extension seems to me inevitable. The question that I asked myself was why it was that men generally had more faith in the judgment of 10 ordinary men than in that of a most learned Judge? Those who have fought for this system in other countries felt in the same way as people in this country feel to-day. This system was really introduced in other countries when abuses crept up in the administration of justice, and as an escape from the tyranny of a system which although administered by the most learned and noble-minded of men yet became corrupt or effete for many reasons, people demanded that the judgment of a single man, however learned and great he may be, should be reinforced or corrected by the judgment of a number of ordinary but intelligent men who did not form a part of the administrative machinery but could bring to bear their unsophisticated and unbiased minds on the consideration of every point. A prominent Englishman once said that he had more faith in the judgment of ten fishermen than in that of one learned Judge. That may be an exaggeration. But men do feel like that; they have fought for it in some countries and they have got it. It may be that the jurors may not always be just the kind of people who can form a clear and dispassionate judgment on any point even if the merits and demerits of the points are discussed in their presence three times over. But that is very rarely the case; and the authorities have the power to select the right type of men of whom there are plenty no doubt in every district. I feel, that at a time like the present when restrictions have been imposed, may be for very good reasons, on the liberties of the people and when the thoughts of people are in a state of fermentation and their minds a little excited; when more than ever there should be better understanding between the Government and the people and when the Government should make every attempt to strengthen their position by enlisting the loyalty, sympathy and co-operation of the people in every way, it is eminently desirable that they should grant a concession which will improve rather than thwart the administration of justice. It may be that the Jury system as it exists to-day in this province has not proved to be quite as satisfactory as the people expected. The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray has given some reasons why it has not. One may agree with him or one may not; but I am of opinion that even if the system is not working well for any fault in the system itself, the best way to remedy it is to expose the defects of this system and the best way to do it is for the people to have a share in it so that every incident of maladministration of justice is noticed and discussed by the people and the Government. It is good for the people to discuss and criticise what they think to be wrong. It is also good for the Government. The demand as embodied in this Resolution is just and necessary. It will be another evidence of the justice and benignity of British rule in this country if the Government accept this Resolution. I hope the Government will not miss this opportunity of doing this great act that will make them beloved of the people."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. R. A. Irwin said:—

"My Lord, I think it is a great pity that longer notice of questions of such an important description as this is not circulated to members before the meetings of this Council, so that members may have an opportunity of collecting facts and statistics relating to them. I must confess that this most important Resolution has been practically sprung upon me and consequently I have not been able to prepare myself for it, and do not therefore feel sufficiently competent to discuss it. But, my Lord, what I do feel is, whilst sympathising with the principle of the Resolution, that after the arguments which we have heard to-day, Your Excellency's Government may be trusted to extend the system either at once or from time to time, as may be seen fit, and I would ask the Hon'ble mover not to press it to a division."

(*Rai P. N. Mukherji Bahadur; Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*)

The Hon'ble RAI P. N. MUKHARJI BAHADUR said:—

"My Lord, 'trial by jury' is a phrase to conjure with and is a precious mouthful; but like all things good created by God or built by man it has its limitations; rightly used it may be the greatest of blessings; wrongly used or abused it might prove the greatest curse. While administration of justice, as it obtains in British India, happens to be the administration of *law* with justice, very often only as a separable accident, not *even* an *inseparable* accident,—perhaps it is well that it should be so, certainly it could not be otherwise under present circumstances,—so long as that obtains, we have to see what the machinery is that we can employ and what the means are that are at our disposal. I am sure that 'trial by jury' in the abstract we are all in love with. There is no one in this House, I venture to say, from your Lordship downwards who is not partial, intensely partial, to 'trial by jury'. We all want it and would be glad to have it, but the question is whether we *should* have it under the present circumstances. I have in my hands a paper book showing that in a certain case, which happened not a hundred miles from Government House and only so far back as the 23rd of November, 1914, in a district where the system of 'trial by jury' had obtained for years and years, the jury found two men guilty of murder, but the judge, now our respected Legal Remembrancer, felt compelled to refer the case to the High Court and the finding of the jury was annulled or partially annulled. That case or even a dozen cases do not prove the inutility or the impracticability of 'trial by jury.' We have good juries and we have bad juries. We have places where we can get good juries and there are places where we cannot get them. I think that after all in most things we get what we deserve. It was well said:—

> 'I hold it as a changeless law,
> From which no soul can sway or swerve;
> There is that in us which will draw,
> Whate'er we need or most deserve.'

All good things will come in time, and it would not be right to force the hands of Government with a resolution like this and to hasten the extension of the jury system to all the districts of Bengal where it has not already been extended. Bengal is a little continent. All the districts are not similar to one another. My work takes me into all the districts and I submit that to say that Calcutta or the 24-Parganas is on a par with certain other districts of Bengal which are hundreds of miles away and where the conditions of living are absolutely different is to say what is not correct. They are as poles asunder from each other. Although they are under the same Governor, they are as unlike two places as the antipodes are to each other. I think, as the previous speaker has said, that the point should not be pressed to a division. I should have liked to say a few more things, but I find that the ground has been cut from under my feet by some of the previous speakers, and it is no use reiterating facts which have already been stated. I am sure that the House will exercise its good sense, as it always does, and do what is the right thing to do under the present circumstances."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SIR SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said:—

"My Lord, this resolution has been fully discussed and many have supported it, and a few, a very few, have opposed it. Those who have supported the resolution seem to have been influenced very largely by sentiment and political considerations. They have claimed it as a privilege which obtains in other countries and which therefore should be conceded in this country, in places where it has been withheld. On the other hand there are those who have opposed the resolution and they have introduced into the question a variety of subjects. Some have opposed because they think the system itself is not perfect and that finality does not attach to the verdict of a jury in this country. Some have said that the right of appeal to the High Court would be shut out if the system of Trial by Jury is extended.

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta.*)

Others think this is not a valuable right because they have no confidence in the High Court. Suggestions have been made that the charges are not always fairly recorded, and recorded after they are delivered. These are all collateral matters into which I do not propose to enter. As a matter of fact I do not propose to enter into the merits of the resolution at all. There is one thing that differentiates the position of Government from that of the non-official members who have spoken either in favour or against the resolution. I hope I shall offend nobody when I say that, amongst the non-official classes, the best judge is considered to be he who acquits the largest number of accused and the worst judge is he who convicts, and the feeling in favour of the extension of trial by jury to places where it does not obtain, is perhaps the belief that there would be more acquittals if trials are held by judge and jury than by a judge with the aid of assessors whose opinion is not binding. The position of Government is however different. It is not the interest of Government to secure convictions where there should be an acquittal, nor is it the interest of Government that there should be acquittal where there should be conviction. While most of the Hon'ble Members who have spoken in support of the resolution have looked upon trial by jury as a great political privilege, the absence of which is a stigma on the people of the country, Government will have to consider the question very largely from the point of view of the administration of justice. From their point of view the most relevant question to consider is whether the administration of justice would be facilitated or retarded by the extension of the system. However, as I said, I have no desire to enter into the merits of the question. There are difficulties, and the question is one which is of far-reaching effect. Government are not at the present moment in a position to express an opinion one way or the other. It has been said that because the system obtains in 16 districts, it ought to be extended to 10 other districts, but if the system has not worked well in 16 districts there is no reason why it should be extended at all. I do not say that the jury system has not worked well. Perhaps the more correct thing would be to say that it has neither been a conspicuous failure nor a conspicuous success. However, in a matter like this, Government can only proceed upon the advice of those most competent to advise in such a matter. There are two parties to be considered—the Crown that prosecutes and the accused who is prosecuted. In a matter like this we can express no opinion without consulting the High Court as well as our own officers whose opinion would carry weight. A great deal has been said about the High Court. It would be impertinent on my part to enter into a defence of that body, nor do they stand in need of any such defence, but I know this, that in spite of what has been said the High Court does command the confidence of the people of this country. As I have already said we have to consult the High Court and we have to consult our own officers, and we are not at the present moment in a position to say whether the system of trial by jury is such a success that we ought to introduce it into the remaining districts of Bengal. I would therefore tell my hon'ble friend that if he would amend his resolution and would only ask that Government should take up the matter for consideration, we will gladly do so. But if he insists on our giving him a pledge now, I am sorry I am not able to do so. I hope my hon'ble friend will realise that in a matter of such importance, we require time and have not had sufficient time to go into the question properly and to get the opinions of those without whose opinion we cannot proceed further. I would therefore request my hon'ble friend either to withdraw his resolution, on my promise to look into the matter, or amend it in the manner I have suggested. As I do not desire to enter into the merits of the system of trial by jury, I will not detain the Council any longer."

The Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta said:—

"My Lord, one word about the observations made by the Hon'ble Mr. Haq. It is not disputed that there are defects in the system. The question is

(*Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta.*)

because the existing system is not perfect, is that any reason why it should not be extended to other districts? There are many institutions which are not perfect; for instance, our Legislative Council. Nobody would say that it is a perfect institution. Nobody would say that we have the elective element here as we ought to have it, but I do not think that because it is not perfect, therefore other Provinces should not have it. Perfection must follow introduction and not precede it. First of all the system must be introduced and then it will be made perfect. It will be placing the cart before the horse if you talk of perfection before introducing the system. My friend has spoken about the High Court, and I feel constrained to observe that his opinion is an extreme one; but even taking him at his own word and even if the High Court is as bad as my hon'ble friend would have us believe, is it seriously contended that because the High Court is bad therefore we ought not to have it, and that the institution should not be introduced into other provinces where it does not obtain? We all know that the people of Bihar fought for a High Court and they have got it. We are not satisfied with one Indian member in the Executive Council, we want three, and there are some who want half a dozen, but because there is only one Indian member, is it any reason why we should not have that one member at all? That is not the point. The point is, is it desirable as far as it goes? That is the point. Will anybody demand abolition of the system? I do not think that there is anybody who will say that because the system is bad it ought to be abolished. If the view taken by my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy is correct, certainly I should think that it is his duty, in view of the opinion he holds, to move in this Council for the abolition of the system of Trial by Jury. And if his views are correct, then he has failed most conspicuously in that duty. I hope I shall not be misunderstood, and I do not wish to raise any racial question, but there have been cases in which Europeans have been accused and it has been very difficult to obtain a verdict of guilty, but because in one or two or more instances that was so, nobody can honestly contend that Europeans should not have the system of Trial by Jury. There are bound to be one or two cases in which there will be failure of justice.

With regard to the opinion of Mr. Justice Amir Ali quoted by my Hon'ble friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, about the difficulty of obtaining educated jurors, my only answer is that it was an opinion expressed 34 years ago, and since then education has made great progress in this country, and that difficulty no longer exists.

My Lord, I am extremely sorry that I am unable to accept the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda The position taken up by the Hon'ble member is this, that the Government are not yet in a position to form any opinion and this would take a year or two. It has also been said that they have not had sufficient time to come to a definite conclusion on this matter. My submission is this. This is a very old question, the opinions of the High Court have been taken on several occasions; and there has been a very careful inquiry by the Jury Commission, and the literature on the subject is voluminous and unwieldy,—I mean the official literature, that is, the reports of Executive and Judicial officers. Besides notice of this Resolution was given about three months ago and the Government have had sufficient time to consider it.

One word, my Lord. It has been said that we are guided in this matter by sentiment. I must admit that as long as we continue to be men, we cannot rid ourselves of sentiment. Sentiment of course there is, but is it sentiment alone that has guided us in bringing up this matter before the Government? My submission is that it has not. Weighty considerations are at the root of this resolution. To the non-official European members of this Council, I would particularly submit this, that it is perfectly clear from the speech of the Hon'ble Nawab Sahib that the Government are not against it. In view of that declaration I appeal to the non-official European members for support and there are more reasons than one why I am entitled to their support. I have already said in my previous speech that the European

fought for their salvation in this respect in 1884 and they succeeded after a very stormy agitation. In view of their attitude at that time, I think I can claim their whole-hearted support in favour of this resolution."

A division was then taken with the following result :—

Ayes—24.			*Noes—22.*		
The Hon'ble	Sir	Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, K.C.I.E.	The Hon'ble	Mr.	P. C. Lyon, C.S.I.
,,	,,	Dr. Nilratan Sarkar.	,,	,,	Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda, K.C.I.E.
,,	,,	Mr. Aminur Rahman.	,,	,,	Mr. N. D. Beatson Bell, C.S.I., C.I.E.
,,	,,	Raja Hrishikesh Laha, C.I.E.	,,	,,	Surgeon-General W. R. Edwards, C.B., C.M.G.
,,	,,	Mr. Provash Chunder Mitter.	,,	,,	Mr. F. J. Monahan.
,,	,,	Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.	,,	,,	Mr. C. J. Stevenson-Moore, C.V.O.
,,	,,	Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray.	,,	,,	Mr. J. H. Kerr, C.I.E.
,,	,,	Babu Brojendra Kishor Ray Chaudhuri.	,,	,,	Mr. J. Donald.
,,	,,	Babu Arun Chandra Sinha.	,,	,,	Mr. H. H. Green.
,,	,,	Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.	,,	,,	Mr. C. H. Bompas.
,,	,,	Maulvi Abul Kasem.	,,	,,	Mr. W. W. Hornell.
,,	,,	Mr. M. Ashraf Ali Khan Chaudhuri.	,,	,,	Mr. S. W. Goode.
,,	,,	Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq.	,,	,,	Mr. H. P. Duval.
,,	,,	Mr. A. Rasul.	,,	,,	Rai Priya Nath Mukherji Bahadur.
,,	,,	Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray.	,,	,,	Mr. J. H. Mackenzie.
,,	,,	Mr. Altaf Ali.	,,	,,	Mr. G. C. Godfrey.
,,	,,	Rai Sri Nath Ray Bahadur.	,,	,,	Mr. R. Glen.
,,	,,	Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta.	,,	,,	Mr. E. R. Bray.
,,	,,	Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur.	,,	,,	Mr. A. Birkmyre.
,,	,,	Babu Surendra Nath Ray.	,,	,,	Mr. E. B. Eden.
,,	,,	Babu Mahendra Nath Ray, C.I.E.	,,	,,	Mr. E. A. Martin.
,,	,,	Mr. K. B. Dutt.	,,	,,	Mr. H. R. A. Irwin.
,,	,,	Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.			
,,	,,	Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar.			

The following members were absent :—

The Hon'ble Sir S. P. Sinha, Kt.

,, ,, Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.

,, ,, Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari, C.I.E.

,, ,, Rai Debender Chunder Ghose Bahadur.

The following member abstained from voting :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Z. R. Zahid Suhrawardy.

The ayes being 24 and the noes 22, the motion was carried.

(*Maulvi Abul Kasem; Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.*)

The following Resolutions, which stood in the name of the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta, were, with the permission of the President, withdrawn, viz. :—

LIST OF BUSINESS ITEM No. 4.—This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that the system of Trial by Jury be extended to all offences triable by Courts of Session.

LIST OF BUSINESS ITEM No. 5.—This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that the Special Jury system, as contemplated by sub-section (2) of section 269 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, be extended to all those districts in Bengal in which it is not at present in force.

LIST OF BUSINESS ITEM No. 6.—The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM moved the following Resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that a Government High School be established at Burdwan as soon as practicable.

He said :—

"My Lord, this Resolution is a very simple one and I do not think it requires many words from me to commend it to Your Excellency's Government and to this Council. It may be that this is not the proper time to introduce a Resolution like this, because the condition of our finance is anything but satisfactory, and if I do it, it is simply because I want the administrative sanction of Your Excellency's Government to a proposal like this, and I wish and pray that it may be carried out as soon as there is an improvement in the condition of our finances. There was a Government school in Burdwan which was abolished some 63 years back. That school was abolished when the Maharaja of Burdwan established an institution of his own and it was at that time thought that there was no room in the town of Burdwan for two schools. Thanks to the personal interest taken by the Maharaja Bahadur in this school, the school has developed into a college. That school is now doing excellent work. My Lord, education has advanced to a very large extent and there is room now in Burdwan for more than one school, and what is more, we want a Government school to be established, not so much to provide for education as to serve as a model to the large number of institutions existing in that district. I think that the officers of the Education Department themselves will admit that so far as the district of Burdwan is concerned, there has been some deterioration both in the discipline as well as in the instructions given in the schools there and at one time, only a couple of years ago, one of the schools at the headquarters had to be abolished because the University disaffiliated it, it having failed to carry out the reforms which the departmental officers and the Syndicate repeatedly asked them to do, and about 700 students were thrown into the streets of Burdwan. But for the timely intervention of the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell and Mr. T. O Dunn, whose services we have just lost, the whole body of these students would have gone without any education. They made a handsome grant to the Municipal school from Government funds for its maintenance. I think there is absolute necessity for the establishment of a Government school at Burdwan, and I may only say that Burdwan is one of the two districts of Bengal where there is not a single Government school. In several districts there are more than one. With these words I commend this resolution to the Council."

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR OF BURDWAN said :—

"My Lord, the resolution is a simple one and I naturally take an interest in any educational institutions about to be started in Burdwan. I may say at the outset that I support the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem's resolution not exactly on the same grounds on which he has put it forward, but because I think that there is room in Burdwan for another school, and a model Government school would be, I think, most welcome to the people there. When the

(*Mr. Hornell; Maulvi Abul Kasem.*)

third school in Burdwan was disaffiliated a few years ago, a lot of young students were put into great difficulty and their parents more so. We have at the present moment two schools, the Municipal High school and the Burdwan Raj Collegiate school, and provided that the Municipal school is maintained, the Burdwan Raj will certainly not have anything to say against the starting of a model school by the Government, and I hope the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell will give that assurance, and subject to that, I will support the Resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. Hornell said :—

"Sir, the Government accept the Resolution of the Hon'ble member. The general policy is that there should be a Government high school in every district and there is at present no such institution in the Burdwan district. Government therefore consider that there should be a zilla school at Burdwan, but they desire to emphasize another aspect of the policy to which I have just referred—it has also been mentioned by the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur and the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem, *viz.*, that a zilla school should be something of a model. That some Government schools are not now exactly model ones, is not pertinent to the present issue. The point is that Government will not be prepared to establish a Government school in Burdwan until they can establish a good one, *i.e.*, a school with suitable building accommodation and provided with adequate hostel arrangements.

The Resolution of the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem contains the blessed words 'as soon as practicable.' Some day I will show the Hon'ble member a list of the educational schemes which are awaiting better financial conditions. When he sees this list, he will, I am sure, feel satisfied that in making schemes at least we have not been idle. I shall take an early opportunity of visiting Burdwan and seeing what is required there and what should be done. Then the scheme will be worked out and added to the list of pending projects. It is impossible to say more except perhaps that the scheme is one to which I personally shall assign a place of importance in the waiting list.

To the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur I would say that I think that it is essential that the Government school, being a model, should not replace the Municipal school, but that the existing Municipal school should be retained, because if we start a zilla school in Burdwan, I should not contemplate establishing a school for more than 400 or 500 boys. In that case there would certainly be room for both schools, and I should not be prepared to consider any scheme which contemplates the creation of a school which might be expanded to any size. I can, therefore, assure the Hon'ble Maharaja that the zilla school, whenever it is established, will not take the place of the Municipal school."

The Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem said :—

"We are deeply grateful to the Director of Public Instruction for kindly accepting this Resolution."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

List of Business Item No. 7.—The Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasim moved the following Resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that steps be taken to protect from damage by floods the areas of land in the district of Burdwan, lying to the south of the river Damodar, and between the rivers Ajai and Kunur.

(*Maulvi Abul Kasem.*)

He said :—

"My Lord, at the last meeting of the Council, I had the honour of moving a Resolution to the effect that an embankment be raised on the southern bank of the Ajai river; and I was told that the professional advisers of the Government were strongly opposed to that proposal, and I had no alternative but to withdraw the motion. A Resolution similar to the present one was moved in this Council on the 3rd March, 1914, and that also had to be withdrawn. If I venture to-day to place the present Resolution before the Council, it is because I know that I have the sympathy and I hope I will have the support not only of the Hon'ble member in charge but of this Council as well. Since the last meeting of the Council things have happened, Sir, which loudly call for some redress of the grievances and the protection of the people and villages in the neighbourhood of the Damodar and the Ajai. Towards the close of the month of September there was an abnormal rise in the two rivers and the result was that hundreds of villages have been practically washed away and thousands of poor men rendered homeless and destitute. I do not like to inflict on this Council a description of the ravages caused by these two rivers or to recite harrowing tales of misery and woe. I need only say that thousands would have died of starvation but for the timely help received from the Government. According to the official report the Damodar is responsible for the damage of 127 square miles of country and the destruction of 20 villages with 3,000 houses and the Ajai caused havoc over an area of 225 square miles and caused the destruction of 280 villages with 35,000 houses. The official estimate is in my opinion very moderate. At a time when these reports and estimates were prepared it was not practicable to go from village to village and prepare statistics within the short time by which it was required to be submitted to the Government and consequently the estimate was made on information then available to the officials entrusted with the work. However, that does not matter in the least. Every one knows that the recent floods caused great destruction to the villages lying on the banks of the Damodar and the Ajai. If the loss of cattle caused directly by the floods has not been very great the indirect result had been disastrous. The people not only lost their houses and huts but also their granaries and stock of fodder. There being no grass in the fields people knew not how to feed their cattle; and hundreds of our animals had consequently to be placed under the butcher's knife. While speaking of the last floods I would be failing in my duty if I did not say that my countrymen are deeply grateful to Mr. D. H. Lees, the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, and his able lieutenants, Mr. Bhupendra Nath Gupta, the then District Magistrate of Burdwan, and Mr. Guru Saday Dutt, the Collector of Birbhum, for the prompt, energetic and well organised measures they adopted for the relief of the sufferers. They moved from place to place at great personal inconvenience and without the least concern for their own health or comfort. Wherever they went they carried with them cheer and hope to people who were gloomy and destitute. The subordinate officials also deserve our thanks. They denied themselves the few days' holiday which they get in the year and which they so much needed after a year's hard work. They did their work under trying circumstances in a manner worthy of the great Government they serve and of the highest traditions of the services to which they belong. Babus Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, Abhaya Charan Chatterji, Ashu Tosh Dob and Maulavi Ekramuddin all did their duty zealously and at great personal sacrifice. Babu Kshitinath Ghosh was put in charge of the worst affected area and he had to wade through deep water and knee-deep mud from day to day for weeks together. He did his work with a devotion which elicited public admiration and gratitude. Our thanks are also due to non-official agencies such as the Ram Krishna Mission and the Social Service League for the help received from them in the hour of our sorest need. In this connection I may say, Sir, that at Burdwan town the District Magistrate and leaders of public opinion tried to form a volunteer band to help the official agency, but the attempt failed. Rightly or wrongly there is an impression

(*Maulvi Abul Kasem.*)

among young men that those who engaged themselves in philanthropic works are watched by the police and sometimes get into trouble. I know, Sir, that the work of our volunteers in the past as in the present has been highly appreciated not only by the public but also by the highest authorities in the land. Still, whether there be any grounds or not, the apprehension is there. Above all, Sir, our gratitude is due to the Hon'ble member in charge and to the Government for the sympathy we received and the generous help given to us in our distress. In 1913 there was a great flood from the effects of which even the Municipal town of Burdwan did not escape. It then received a good deal of public attention and philanthropic men came to our rescue in large numbers. The floods of 1916 were no less violent and the damage caused no less serious, but this year our tales of woe did not receive that public sympathy and attention which they deserve. Even the press gave us only a lukewarm attention. The only substantial help received was from the Government and it was not supplemented by non-official agency to an appreciable extent. It may be due to the fact that the Burdwan flood by its repetition has lost its novelty. I know, Sir, that the question of dealing with the Damodar and the Ajai is not an easy one. The Government have considered the gravity of the situation on several occasions in the past and had, from time to time, adopted measures which then seemed to have solved the question. At one time it was thought that the battle of the Damodar and the Ajai had been fought and won, but subsequent events have shown that the measures then adopted were only of temporary success, and to-day we find ourselves in just as great difficulties as ever with these two rivers. The abnormal floods, though in recent years they have become more frequent, are not the subject of the question, the solution of which I beg in the Resolution I have the honour to move. In this Resolution I beg to draw the attention of the Government to the condition of the people of the villages by the side of these two rivers in the years of normal rainfall. So far back as 1859, Mr. Hobhouse, the Collector of Burdwan, who made an enquiry into the matter in the course of his report remarked: "Much sand has been deposited near the river banks and some crops were probably swept away or rotted inland." Further on he says that, "from one to two miles in length and a quarter of a mile on the river bank and inland, scarcely any crops are to be seen, and sand deposits studded now and then with clumps of coarse grass everywhere meet the eye and the villages and their cultivation seemed to have suffered very much destruction of houses, property and crops." Another officer, Mr. Jones, reported that, "the prevailing feature testifying to the damage done was the immense quantity of waste land to be met with and although these lands were too far from the river to be covered with sand, yet the good soil appears to have been washed away by the force of the currents." Another Collector says in his report: "The direct results of abandoning the embankment on the right side of the Damodar have been almost the complete ruin to the cultivators." As the result of an inquiry made by Lieutenant Garnault, R. E., in 1862, it was found that the extent of waste land increased by thousands of bighas from 1851 to 1862, and it was also found that a great quantity of land has been put out of cultivation, and that a great quantity more has been unfitted for rice cultivation. If such was the condition, Sir, more than 60 years back, one can well imagine what it is now. The abnormal floods of 1916 and 1913 attracted public attention. But every year the fields are flooded and the crops are destroyed. This being the normal state of affairs, it does not receive the attention of the people other than those whose misfortune it is to suffer the misery caused by the flood. Captain Beadle, on the 1st of July, 1858, said: "Ajai is perhaps the most torrential of our rivers and its floods come down as an advancing wall of waters full of sand until they reach the normal level bed. Hence there is a considerable fall in the land over the bank and at the craves of the rivers; it is well to maintain embankment which the experience of a long period has proved to be protective to property and crops." It has been said, Sir, that "rabi crops" flourish in flood areas; it should be remembered that these crops are grown on scattered

patches where there are deposits of silt but we get more sand than silt. At best it is only a poor compensation for the loss of rice crops in a large and extensive area. As I have said, the question has been engaging the attention of the Government and we have been repeatedly assured of the sympathy of the Government with the distressed people. Sympathy goes a great way, but it certainly does not relieve the distress. In 1863, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in passing orders on the report of Lieutenant Garnault, remarked that: "It is certainly desirable that a much greater protection should practically be attained." And so late as March 1914, the Hon'ble Mr. Finnimore, speaking on behalf of the Government, closed his reply to a similar resolution in Council by saying that the Government quite realised the difficulties which the inhabitants of the flooded area were put to, and having full sympathy with them, would do all they can to mitigate the evil. The literature on the question of floods in the Burdwan district is getting more voluminous and the reports submitted to the Government for consideration too numerous to be dealt with properly. In this Resolution, Sir, I do not ask the Government to commit themselves to any particular policy or to any definite action, it only prays that steps be taken to alleviate the miseries of the people living within the flood zone. I know the problem is a difficult one, but however difficult it may be, I hope, Sir, that the engineering skill at the disposal of the Government is not so poor as not to be able to devise some practical means of relief and to tone down the miseries of a people once flourishing but now reduced to a state of abject poverty and helplessness. The Government are doing their best to help the people after abnormal floods by loans and gratuitous relief, but I beg to submit that unless steps are taken to save the land from annual floods, measures of relief would be of no avail. People would not be able to repay the loans, and would not be able to obtain such loans in future. Even the resources of the Government are limited and we cannot expect the Government to relieve our wants when these wants are of a recurring character. Make-shift devices and patch-work protection cannot save a people subjected to the ravages of the flood year after year. I respectfully submit, Sir, that the Government be well advised if they follow the old English adage that "prevention is better than cure," and instead of spending large sums of money for the relief of the sufferers from the floods, they adopt measures which would make the recurrence of these floods a matter of past history. I commend for the consideration of the Government the suggestion made by the Collector of Burdwan in 1859, that "a measure of equity to the raiyats and landholders on the right bank would be to fill up all the breaches mentioned, so as to bring them to the level of the river banks on either side of them; and thus perhaps when all the right bank is overtopped by flood, there might be a general and equal spill over the whole country instead of these partial rushes of flood water at 8 breaches over some 36 miles of the river banks." The flooded area between the Ajai and the Kunoor does not seem to have received much attention at the hands of the Government. But I submit, Sir, the situation there is certainly as grave as that of the country lying on the right bank of the Damodar, and I think, Sir, the question of protecting this tract of the country is much easier of solution. I understand that Mr. J. Mallik, the District Engineer of Burdwan, an officer of great experience and ability, who earned some distinction in the service of the Government, submitted a scheme to the Collector of Burdwan, and I hope, Sir, the Government will consider that report in dealing with the question. I submit for consideration, the suggestion made by one of the foremost noblemen and one of our most sagacious leaders, Raja Bahadur Bun Behari Kapur, C.S.I., whose practical knowledge of the situation is greater than that of anybody else, expert or no expert, speaking, as the President of a public meeting held at Burdwan, the other day, asked the people to appeal to the Government that a committee of officials and non-officials, experts and laymen, should be appointed to inquire into the matter and suggest remedies. If this suggestion be accepted, the people of the affected area would submit definite

(*Maharajadhiraja Bahadur.*)

proposals for the consideration of the committee and the Government with such expert opinion as we can avail ourselves of. Expert opinion we have had many and too often, yet the question remains where it was. Time has come for its solution. I am afraid it is already too late; and any further delay would be disastrous. It is admitted, Sir, that the present policy has been adopted for the protection of the Railway systems, but I submit that it is not fair to place a helpless people at the mercy of torrential and violent rivers for the protection of prosperous Railway Companies. Railways can certainly devise means for the protection of their lines and can well afford to carry them out. Railway system, Sir, not only obstruct the drainage of the country to a very large extent, but have been allowed to cause obstruction to the free flow of water through the river channels. As regards the cost of any scheme that may be adopted by the Government, I humbly submit that it be equitably divided between the Railway Companies, landlords, tenants and the Port Commissioners of Calcutta. I do not remind this Council of the various pledges made by the Government from time to time to maintain and keep up the embankments of the Damodar and the Ajai. They have now become matters of ancient history. Pledges or no pledges, the situation is so grave and serious and the miseries of the people have reached to such an extent that it has become imperatively necessary to take some steps, if not to remove, at any rate to minimise, the evils caused by the floods. If no protective measures are adopted, and adopted immediately, and if the present state of affairs is allowed to continue, the next inundation will be, I am afraid, the last straw on the camel's back, and thousands of people in my district will, in the words of Nawab Abdul Jubbar, "have to leave their homes and their hearths with a bleeding heart." No further power of resistance is left, and the people have been reduced to the last stage of suffering and their patience is exhausted. In conclusion, I place before the Government the promise made sometime back, and would appeal to Government to give effect to that promise. Sir, I beg to state that the closing of the breaches on the right banks of the Damodar and the Ajai, and bringing them up to ground level will greatly alleviate the miseries of the people and I think the adoption of this measure deserves careful consideration. Whatever has to be done must be done before the rains set in. The matter has been too long under consideration and we have waited too long for the solution of the problem by professional experts and I hope the Government will adopt some measure of protection before it is too late."

(At this stage, His Excellency left the Chamber and the chair was taken by the Hon'ble the Vice-President.)

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of Burdwan said :—

"Mr. Vice-President, this Resolution does not really commit the Government to anything very much. I do not know exactly the attitude of Government in this matter, but I know this, that the Government have advanced large sums of money to alleviate the distress of the sufferers from the recent floods of the Damodar as well as the rivers Ajai and Kunur. I certainly think that steps should be taken to protect from damage these areas which are getting flooded now almost every year. Of course this flood in the Ajai has been an unprecedented one, and Government may say that one should not apprehend that this might occur again, but as the question of the embankments of the Ajai and the Kunur has been before the Government for a very long time, and in view of what Raja Bun Behari Kapur Bahadur said on this point at a public meeting in Burdwan, of which mention has already been made by the Hon'ble mover, I think that the Government, if unable to accept the Resolution for its wording, will look into the matter, but if they have no objection to the wording of the Resolution, will kindly accept it."

(*Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur; Mr. Beatson Bell; Maulvi Abul Kasem.*)

The Hon'ble RAI MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, the Resolution suggests that steps be taken to protect from damages by floods the areas of land in the district of Burdwan lying to the south of the river Damodar and between the rivers Ajai and Kunur. I accord my hearty support to the Resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. BEATSON BELL said :—

"Mr. Vice-President, I may say at once that there is no objection on the part of Government to accepting this Resolution. The Resolution has been worded in such a way that it does not bind us to any specific line of policy, nor does it bind us to the expenditure of any specific sum of money. As the House is aware, we have already begun to consider the budget for the coming year, and the prevention of floods in the division of Burdwan was one of the first objects which we marked for special consideration. Although I am unable to name any specific sum, I can assure the House that the matter will not be overlooked.

I may take this opportunity of thanking the Hon'ble mover for his kind words of appreciation regarding the help which was given by Government for the relief of the people who suffered in the recent floods. It will be gratifying to all the local officers to hear that their work was so thoroughly appreciated.

There are three ways of dealing with rivers which are liable to floods. The first way is to do nothing and to trust entirely to nature. The second is to make embankments and go on making them until the river loses all its natural qualities and runs in a raised bed between two high walls. The third way, is to regulate the flow of water in the upper reaches, and at the same time open out the lower reaches so as to prevent an excessive influx of water, and at the same time ensure that the water which does come down is not obstructed in its passage to the larger rivers and the open sea. Each of these three policies has its supporters, but the weight of the best expert opinion is in favour of the third. It was on the lines of this third policy that Mr. Addams-Williams outlined a complete programme for dealing with the river Damodar. The House will remember that at the time of the last budget it was decided, as part of this programme, that a survey should be made to select suitable places for constructing catchment reservoirs. An allotment of Rs. 5,000 was made for this purpose and a specially selected officer of the Public Works Department, Mr. Subarwal, is now engaged upon the survey. We hope that in the next few months he will be able to discover suitable places for constructing the reservoirs in the upper reaches of the Damodar. At the same time, we have schemes before us for the improvement of the lower reaches of this river, and as far as funds are available in the coming year, we intend to carry out these schemes. In fact, we are convinced that the programme of Mr. Addams-Williams is a sound and well-considered programme and we mean to push it through. It is unfortunate that as regards the river Ajai and its tributary the Konoor we have not at present got a complete programme, but the difficult problem of these two rivers is now engaging the anxious consideration of the Public Works Department and I trust that the time is not far distant when the problem will be solved and the safety of the people ensured.

With these few words, I accept the Resolution."

The Hon'ble MAULVI ABUL KASEM said :—

"I thank the Hon'ble member in charge for kindly accepting my Resolution. The people of Burdwan will be deeply grateful when they hear the news."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

LIST OF BUSINESS ITEM No. 8.—The following Resolution, which stood in the name of the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem, was, with the permission of the Vice-President, postponed for discussion to the next meeting of the Council :—

> This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that the pleaders, *mukhtars*, witnesses and parties belonging to the Muhammadan community, when attending in the Civil and Criminal Courts of the Presidency, may be allowed facilities to say their *juma* and midday prayers, and that presiding officers may be specially instructed to grant, on request, to any person of that community reasonable leave of absence from the Court for the performance of these religious duties.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council was then adjourned to 11 A.M. on Tuesday, the 23rd January, 1917, at Government House, Calcutta.

C. TINDALL,

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal and
Secy. to the Bengal Legislative Council (Offg.).

CALCUTTA,

The 22nd December, 1916.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL
JAN 1917

B. S. Press—26-1-1917—2340J—350—C. A. P